Military says Guardians behind Ayala rampage

Story on PAGE A2

Take a bow, JDV

By Cynthia D. Balana

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia has finally attained the one thing that has eluded him for years—recognition and respect from the Filipino public.

TAKE/A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARL[illegible]VIEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Resign, DOJ, NBI execs told NEWS/A4
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GMA to let Erap go to US

Mike Defensor says President to provide security escorts

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Michael Lim Ubac and Philip C. Tubeza

MALACAÑANG will not pose any objection to jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada's being allowed to seek medical treatment in the United States, according to one of President Macapagal-Arroyo's most trusted aides.

Housing Secretary Michael Defensor, who acts as the President's emissary to Estrada, said that "for humanitarian reasons" the President would be amenable to allowing Estrada to undergo knee surgery in the US.

But since it will be the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court that will make the decision, the prosecution and defense teams should take the necessary steps to seek the permission of the court that is trying Estrada for plunder, Defensor said in a phone interview.

He suggested that the two panels should even now make the arrangements out of court to make a joint filing with the Sandiganbayan.

Defensor said the President will even agree to provide security escorts for Estrada "not only to ensure that he will come back but also to protect him."

Defensor is the second Palace official in as many days to indicate that the idea of allowing Estrada to leave for abroad was being considered.

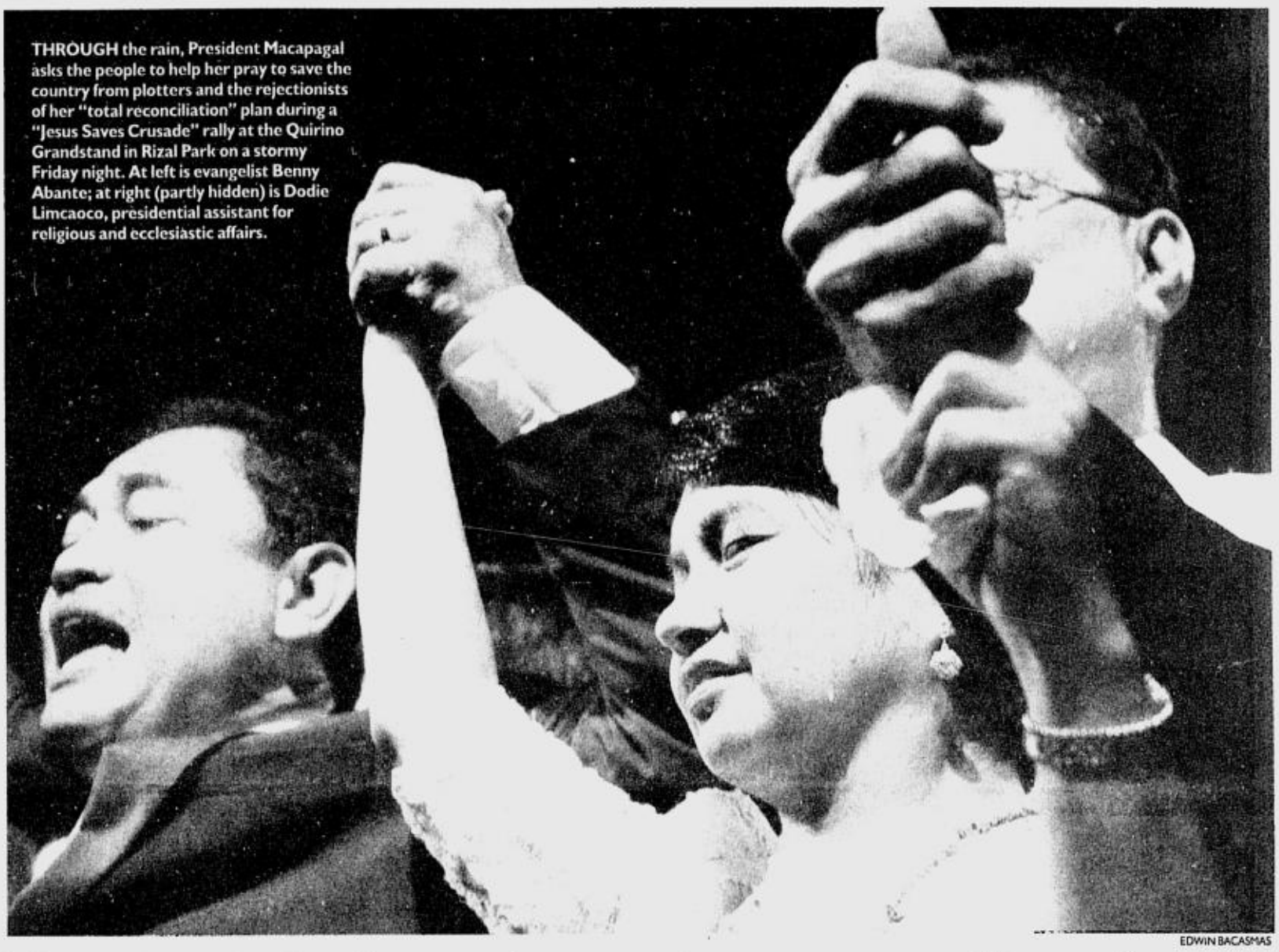
Presidential chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao told the INQUIRER on Friday that he "personally" thought it might not be "a bad idea for unity in the country."

The President herself had said the decision would be up to the Sandiganbayan but that she herself believed that Estrada deserved "humane treatment."

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo the other day accused Malacañang of having offered to send Estrada for treatment to the US as part of the President's "reconciliation plan."

Ms Macapagal this week issued a

GMA/A22



THROUGH the rain, President Macapagal asks the people to help her pray to save the country from plotters and the rejectionists of her "total reconciliation" plan during a "Jesus Saves Crusade" rally at the Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park on a stormy Friday night. At left is evangelist Benny Abante; at right (partly hidden) is Dodie Limcaoco, presidential assistant for religious and ecclesiastic affairs.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Two 'anti-GMA, anti-coup' groups to hold people's summits this week

By Fe Zamora
Inq7.net

GROUPS opposed to President Macapagal-Arroyo are rushing to intervene against a possible military takeover of the government, noting that the country is now "bordering on a danger zone."

At least two "people's summits" are scheduled this week, one initiated by the "leftist-progressives" groups and another by civil society groups with the Council of Philippine Affairs (Copa) as convenor.

The Copa will hold its people's congress on Saturday, Nov. 22, at the Pamantasan ng Makati in Makati City.

Copa secretary general Pastor "Boy" Saycon said 29 organizations were expected to attend the congress. He said the congress would tackle the "medium term" and "long term" alternatives to the Macapagal administration.

More than 800 people's organizations nationwide, with at least 2,000 delegates, have signed up for the leftist summit, Rasti Dalizo, alliance coordinator of Sanlakas, said in a telephone interview.

Called the Alternatiba ng Mamamayan, the people's summit will be held on Nov. 19 at the Bahay ng Alumni in UP in Diliman, Quezon City and on Nov. 20 at the abandoned UE-AMI warehouse in Kalookan City.

Both groups played key roles in the January 2001 Edsa II People Power uprising that led to the ouster of Joseph Estrada, and the assumption of Ms Macapagal to the presidency.

TWO/A21

House for ma dream of DH killed in Saudi

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ILAGAN, Isabela—Extreme poverty and lack of opportunities in her home village of Lullutan drove 25-year-old Reylin Nuez Abarra, the lone Filipino fatality in the Nov. 9 bombing in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to work abroad as a domestic helper.

The terrorist attack on the Al-Mohaya residential compound killed 18 people and injured at least 120, including two other Filipinas.

Relatives said all that Reylin wanted was to build a modest house for her 57-year-old widowed mother Elena, a laundry woman, and five siblings.

"Her plan was for us to have that house by next year," Reylin's sister Ronalyn, 22, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Typhoon Harurot destroyed the Abarras'

HOUSE/A21

WHO'S FAIREST?
Whoever will be named Ms Benguet Tourism, she'll bloom as the gardens of her hometown in La Trinidad, Benguet province.

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Outstanding midwife hosts 'buntis' parties

By Blanche S. Rivera

FOR THE PAST 10 years, the Davao City residence of midwife Anita Alojado has been doubling as her home and birthing center for poor mothers.

This is where she also holds "buntis" parties to give advice on prenatal and postnatal care.

It has also become a training center for *manghihilots* (traditional birthing attendants) and a clinic where Alojado teaches pregnant women and mothers how to care for themselves and their babies.

Alojado's Sto. Niño clinic also offers family planning services to its clients—and does not distinguish between contraception methods that are acceptable to the Catholic church and those that are not.

There are also times when Alojado counsels young, single mothers against abortion.

"I hate abortion," she said during a recent interview in Makati City where she, and three other midwives from other parts of the country, received the dia-

OUTSTANDING/A21

RP's historic house in Tokyo to be torn down

By Ramon J. Farolan

IN ITS first major privatization effort, the government is set to bid out for development on a build-operate-transfer (BOT) basis four properties in Japan—two in Tokyo and two in Kobe—with a total land area of more than 10,000 square meters.

The Tokyo properties would be developed for mixed residential and diplomatic use, and the Kobe properties would be developed in accordance with standards and restrictions in the area. The Philippine government shall retain title to and ownership of the lands.

One of the Tokyo assets is the Fujimi-Kudan property, which measures 4,361

RP'S/A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skieswith scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/11/16/03

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Lasag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legarpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

'Armed Guardians were at rally'

By TJ Burgonio and Marlon Ramos, *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

THE PHILIPPINE Guardians Brotherhood Inc., a faction of which is led by opposition Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, was identified yesterday by military intelligence as being behind the fresh attempts to destabilize the government.

A military intelligence official disclosed that the mammoth rally staged Wednesday in Makati City by anti-administration protesters, estimated at 10,000 to 20,000 mostly identified with ousted President Joseph Estrada, had an armed component composed of members of the Guardians.

"They had an armed component waiting in the background—the Guardians. They were just waiting for the crowd to swell before moving in to aggravate the situation," the official, who asked not to be named, said in an interview.

As a result, the authorities are now closely monitoring the Guardians, the official said.

The intelligence official virtually confirmed President Macapagal-Arroyo's warning of fresh moves by anti-administration forces to destabilize the government.

"But I don't think they're capable of doing an Oakwood," he said, referring to the failed July 27 mutiny in a Makati hotel by over 300 disgruntled junior military officers and enlisted personnel.

But Ernesto Macahiya, the Guardians spokesperson, brushed aside accusations that they were part of a group planning another coup to bring down the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Although we are calling for a new government and a new constitution that would echo the real sentiments of the Filipino masses, that doesn't mean we want to grab power in any unlawful means," he said.

Macahiya lamented that they have become the "favorite and usual suspects of the Macapagal-Arroyo government every time reports about destabilization plots surface."

A police intelligence official, however, belittled the Guardians' capability to mount a coup, noting that it was basically "a civilian organization" with a small group of armed military and police officials who are in active service.

"It all boils down to whether they're capable of mounting a coup. I don't think they are," said the official, who asked not to be named. "It's inaccurate to say that they are an armed group; they are basically a civilian organization."

Macahiya admitted that he and some 1,000 other members of Guardians joined Wednesday's rally spearheaded by the pro-Estrada People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP) merely to express their sentiments.

"I was there; I even spoke at the rally. But my presence there was subdued to avoid any connections at all (to innuendos that this was part of a bigger plot)," he said in a phone interview. "I deny reports that we were there to provide an armed component."

The Guardians took part in the rally since they, the PMAP, the Oct. 28 Movement and other organizations have allied themselves under the loose coalition Kilusan para sa Makatarungang Lipunan at Gobyerno (KMLG), Macahiya said.

Macahiya, together with Guardian leaders Honasan and George Duldulao and 1,000 John Does, have been charged with coup d' etat with the justice department for their alleged involvement in the July 27 failed mutiny.

Some 10,000 to 20,000 protesters marched down Ayala Avenue in Makati on Wednesday, demanding the ouster of the President and Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.

Anti-crowd police had to fire tear gas at the hordes of rallyists after they refused to disperse when their permit to rally expired.

On Friday, the President warned that anti-administration forces were out again to destabilize the government and even jeopardize the presidential elections in May 2004.

"There's a pattern of renewed destabilization to erode the looming electoral process and I call upon the people to stand for democracy," she said even as she appealed to the poor not to be swayed by "enticements" by destabilizers.

The police had said that most of the protesters were paid to join the rally.

The military and police officials shared the view that the protesters had planned to hold out in Makati City to entice more people to join them.

"They had portalets (portable toilets) and cooking gadgets with them. They were there for a long haul," the military official said. "There must be some hidden agenda there. But we can only speculate," the police official added.

As this developed, members of the Guardians yesterday belied claims that former Air Transportation Office chief Col. Panfilo Villaruel had met with their group a week before he seized control of the air control tower at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Macahiya said the revelation made by Presidential Security Adviser Abe Purugganan the other day was "nothing but a desperate move of Arroyo's men to link Honasan and our group to another coup plot."

Macahiya clarified that Villaruel and his aide Navy Lt. Ricardo Catchillar were not PGBI members or supporters. He said if ever Villaruel had a meeting with some of their members, "then they would surely inform us."

Copa denies role in Makati rampage

THE COUNCIL on Philippine Affairs (Copa) yesterday denied involvement in the recent rally in Makati City and that it had forged an alliance with the People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP) which had organized Wednesday's mammoth rally.

In a statement, Copa chair William Esposo branded as "unfounded and irresponsible" the statements of PNP Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane that Copa was involved in the rally.

Ebdane had also alleged that a tie-up had been forged between Copa and PMAP in seeking to destabilize the Macapagal administration.

"Copa, it has escaped the PNP chief's mind and better judgment, has always acted contrary to the objectives of the PMAP," Esposo said.

Copa, he noted, initiated the series of events that led to the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada, while the PMAP is initiating a series of events to free and reinstate Estrada.

He also said that the PMAP had led the assault on Malacañang on May 1, 2001 while Copa was there to defend the seat of executive power.

"General Ebdane can only be seen as malicious when he alleges that Copa was in the PMAP rally that the PNP violently dispersed. No Copa member was present in that rally, much less sympathetic to their cause," Esposo said.

Esposo said the accusation against Copa may be another administration plot to discredit legitimate dissent by associating it with other groups who may not meet public standards or acceptance.

GMA AND WOMEN WRITERS
President Macapagal-Arroyo meets in Malacañang yesterday with participants of the 6th Women Playwrights International Conference being held in the country. They include (from left) Anna Kay France, Meena Natarajan and Ellen Stewart of the United States, Cecille Guidote Alvarez of the Philippines, Lia Karavia of Greece and Fathia el-Assal of Egypt. VAL HANDUMON

Europe aiding RP fight vs terrorism

THE EUROPEAN Commission has launched a civilian and technical assistance program on counterterrorism in the Philippines as a result of Foreign Secretary Blas Ople's visit to Europe last month.

Dubbed the "Rapid Reaction Mechanism," the program focuses on border management, including safe travel documents and migration. It was launched in Manila on Nov. 4.

The program was an outcome of Ople's dialogue with EC external relations commissioner Christopher Patten on Oct. 18.

The EC is the governing institution of the 25-member European Union.

Ople said EC experts will consult with national agencies here to help establish an integrated border management policy for the Philippines, give advice on border security, and identify and provide equipment and capacity-building programs.

Many government agencies are already actively involved in consultations with EC experts. The agencies include the defense and local government departments, the Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation, the National Security Council, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, the Navy, Coast Guard, National Statistics Office, the ports authority, the customs and immigration bureaus, and various agencies of the foreign affairs department.

The RRM's first component—the fight against the financing of terrorism—was launched on Oct. 1. It will assist in bringing Philippine laws into line with the recommendations of the Financial Anti-Money Laundering Task Force. It also will make an assessment of the Anti-Money Laundering Council, and provide training and equipment.

Six experts were sent by the EC for both missions, two for the component on terrorist financing and four for border management.

The Philippines, with Indonesia and Pakistan, has been selected by the EC as a pilot country for the project.

The RRM is implemented in accordance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373. *Jerome Aning*

Look out world, here comes Philippine-made chocolate

By Norman Bordadora

PHILIPPINE chocolate may soon be listed among the world's best.

The Department of Agriculture has approved a program of the Bureau of Agricultural Research aimed at developing high-quality products from local cacao and sugar.

With the right technology, agriculture officials said, Philippine chocolate products could satisfy global standards and tastes.

The program seeks to develop such a technology, and Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. has authorized funding for the necessary research.

"This is a commendable effort," Lorenzo said. "Filipino skill and initiative could make the country more competitive in the field of processed agricultural products, provided the government has the will to support its entrepreneurs and scientists."

BAR's Dr. Feliciano Calora, head of the research group, is optimistic. "We have the talent to (set up) a food science laboratory to be manned by scientists who could produce within five years a locally concocted chocolate that would compete with the best in the world."

But the funding should be "sufficient," Calora said.

Now conducting a study on Philippine cacao is a DA-BAR team led by Dr. Ruben Cabangbang, with Dr. Romulo Cena and Rhodea Cena of the University of Southern Mindanao as members.

The study focuses on Criollo, one of three superior-quality varieties of cacao that thrives in the country.

'I need your prayers'

BATANGAS CITY—In a Thanksgiving Mass before leaving for Manila to be its new archbishop, Lipa Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales asked Batangueños to pray for him and not forget him.

"When I transfer to Manila, the only prayer that I ask of you is to please remember me. And when you do, please pray for my good health, clarity of vision, and that I remain with purity of values," Rosales told the hundreds of Batangueños who attended his Thanksgiving Mass yesterday.

Quoting from the Bible and St. Paul, Rosales told the faithful to accept each other's differences. He also thanked Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco and all those who attended the Mass.

Despite his being the archbishop of Lipa, the Mass was held in the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in this city, where Rosales' grandparents were married and where his parents were baptized and also married.

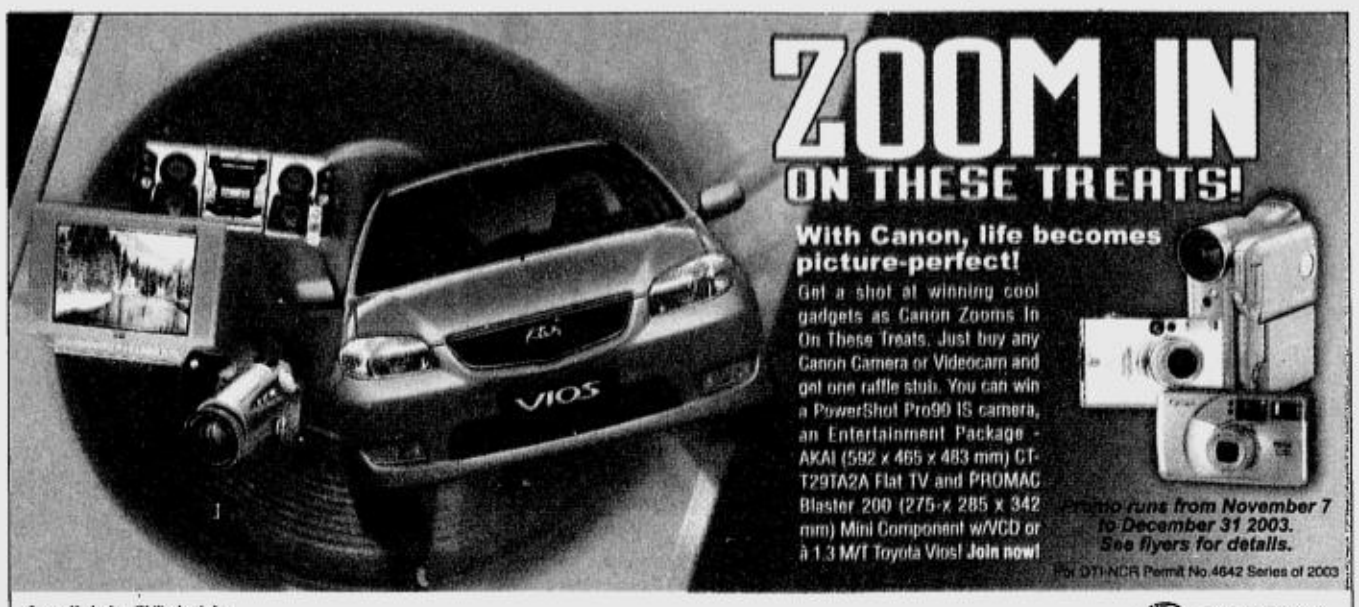
This was also the church where Rosales was baptized, took his first communion, served as a sacristan and was ordained a priest.

His alma mater, St. Bridgete's Academy (now St. Bridgete's College) is just beside the church.

In telling the people to pray for his health, Rosales said he needed to be in perfect physical condition to serve as a shepherd to the people of Manila.

A testimonial banquet was held after the Mass at the Basilica Pastoral Center.

In the middle of the luncheon, former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez arrived but didn't stay long and left immediately. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



DOJ, NBI execs asked to resign over Blanca case; solons eye probe

By Philip Tubeza and Michael Ubac

THE LAWYER of Kaye Torres, the daughter of murdered actress Nida Blanca, yesterday called for the resignation of Justice Undersecretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez and National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco for bungling the extradition of Rod Lauren Strunk, the prime suspect in Blanca's murder.

"I am calling for both of them to resign for this fiasco," Harriet Demetriou, Torres' counsel, said in a telephone interview.

Demetriou also asked the Senate to conduct an investigation of the NBI and the Department of Justice's mishandling of the extradition case.

Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Manuel Villar yesterday said they would push for a Senate inquiry into the incident which led to the dismissal of the Philippine government's request to have Strunk extradited.

Pimentel told the INQUIRER that a Senate inquiry was in order to check whether justice officials were negligent in providing the necessary quantum of evidence to force the extradition of Strunk.

"What we can say is that if the prosecution merely relied on the recanted testimony of (alleged hired killer) Philip Medel Jr., then obviously it is possible to say that they were remiss in their duties."

Pimentel pointed out that "recanted testimonies can hardly be relied upon even in Philippine courts."

Gutierrez said she was ready to face any investigation but urged Demetriou to work with the prosecutors instead of blaming the DOJ.

"This finger-pointing should stop. But I am not afraid to face any investigation," Gutierrez said.

She also said the DOJ would welcome a Senate inquiry because that could also shed more light on what really happened when Blanca was murdered.

"Our prosecutors believe that there are other people who know what happened and they might speak up (if the Senate proceeds with an investigation)," Gutierrez said.

"Stop politicizing the Nida Blanca murder case," Wycoco told Demetriou yesterday.

"The Nida Blanca murder is a very important case that is close to the heart of Filipinos. (Demetriou) should stop politicizing it," he said in a phone interview.

On Thursday, a California court rejected the country's bid to extradite Strunk due to the "conflicting and inconsistent" evidence that the government had submitted.

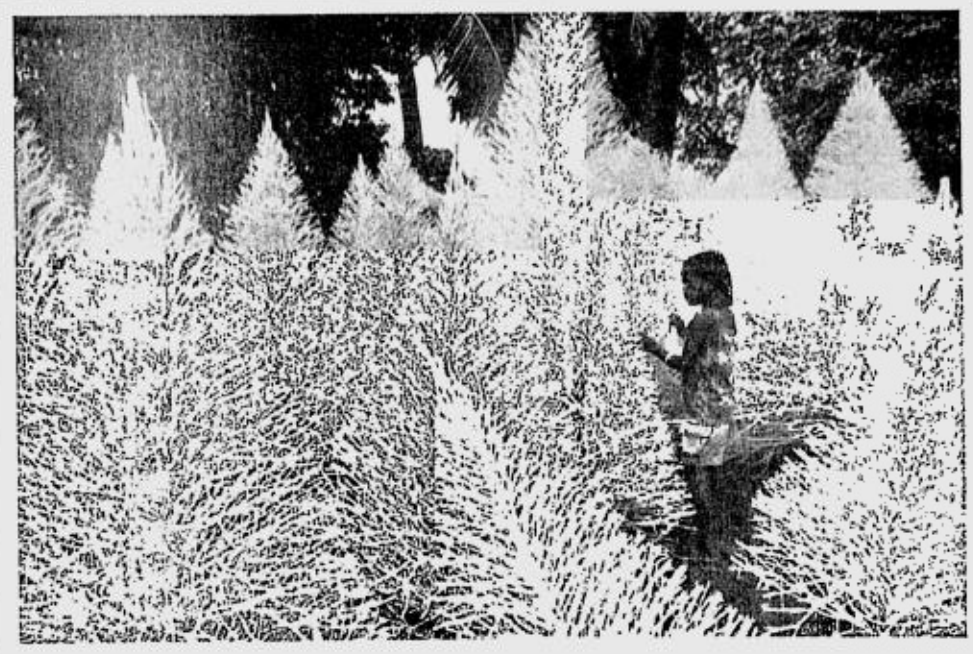
Demetriou said the government failed to submit all the documents necessary for the extradition of Strunk from the United States.

In particular, Demetriou said, the DOJ failed to submit Strunk's undertaking to come back to the country after tending to his ailing mother in the US. Strunk left the country in January 2002 and has since refused to return.

"They should tell the public what happened to that document. It was included in the letter that Secretary (Simeon) Datumanong sent to the NBI," Demetriou said.

Datumanong had asked the NBI to submit 36 documents needed for Strunk's extradition to the US court.

But Wycoco said he has no idea what documents Demetriou was referring to. *With Leila B. Salaverria*



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR
With Christmas just around the corner, this young girl wanders around the tree lot of her father on Roxas Boulevard. The trees are priced between P350 and P700. JIM GUIAO

Red Cross: RP tops in disasters

THE PHILIPPINES led the world in the types and frequency of natural disasters and ranked fourth in the number of people killed or affected by floods, tsunamis, typhoons, landslide, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and manmade disasters, according to a Philippine National Red Cross statement.

It was because of this that the country has been chosen by aid organizations as a "laboratory" for new approaches in disaster mitigation, the PNRC said.

The PNRC also hosted this week a regional conference on community-based disaster management that brought together several foreign delegations.

It said that Asia and the Pacific has a high vulnerability to natural and manmade disasters, calamities, tragedies, conflicts, epidemics and other forms of emergencies that threaten lives and resources.

Yesterday, PNRC and government officials inaugurated the Asia and the Pacific Disaster Management Center at the University of the Philippines campus in Quezon City.

The center is to become the premier learning center in the region in the field of disaster mitigation emergency preparedness.

In the 1990s, the Danish Red Cross successfully started here the Integrated Disaster Planning Program which covered four provinces—Benguet, Palawan, Southern Leyte and Surigao.

The group is now trying out the program in an urban setting, in the Payatas dumpsite in Quezon City.

During an earlier community-based approach to disaster workshop by the PNRC in September, PNRC governor Dante Liban told delegates that the Philippines was ranked fourth in the world with the most number of people killed and affected by natural and man-made disasters.

With the Integrated Community Disaster Planning Program, Liban said he hoped to halve the number of those killed and injured during disasters.

The ICDPP is now on its ninth year of implementation in the country, based in the provinces of Benguet, Southern Leyte, Surigao del Norte, Palawan and Payatas in Quezon City. *Martin P. Marfil*

House to finally drop convicted Mark Jimenez from its rolls

By Cynthia Balana

MARK Jimenez, who was convicted by a US district court and sentenced to two years in jail for electoral fraud and tax evasion, will officially be dropped on Monday from the roster of the House of Representatives.

House Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. yesterday said he has directed the House secretary general to delete the congressman from the roll "since it is very clear Jimenez can no longer discharge his responsibilities because of his prison term."

De Venecia, however, assured Jimenez's constituents in the sixth district of Manila on the release of Jimenez's public works entitlements for his district and constituents.

Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus, however, accused De Venecia of coddling Jimenez and releasing funds to his district despite his conviction.

"It shows the whale of a difference in the justice system between the Philippines and the US," he said.

Lapus said that despite the fact that there was already a final judgement removing Jimenez from the House roster since April, it was only now that De Venecia was implementing the decision "after two years of an agonizing wait."

But De Venecia denied sitting on the earlier ruling of the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal (HRET) removing Jimenez from the roster of Congress.

De Venecia explained that he could not immediately act on the removal of Jimenez because his lawyers had filed a motion for certiorari before the Supreme Court.

"What we have done is to wait for the final decision of the Supreme Court or the decision of the US District Court, whichever came first," the Speaker said.

In March, the HRET disqualified Jimenez, aka Mario Crespo, from representing the sixth district of Manila for vote-buying and violation of the one-year residency requirement when he ran for Congress in the 2001 elections.

The HRET is the sole judge of the election returns and qualification of members of the lower house. It is composed of three Supreme Court justices and six congressmen.

The electoral tribunal also denied with finality Jimenez's motions for reconsideration.

On June 5, 2003, the order became final and executory, and was recorded in the book of Entries of Judgment. Copies of the decision were furnished to the Office of the President, the House through the Speaker, and the Commission on Audit.

The House journal, however, showed that Jimenez was only out on an "official mission."

Jimenez, who was extradited to the US last December in a celebrated case, was sentenced Friday by a Florida court to two years in prison and ordered to pay $1.2 million in fines for federal election fraud. *With a report from Juliet Javellana*

PAL plane engine stalls

AVIATION authorities last night denied reports that a Philippine Airlines plane had exploded in mid-air and crashed shortly after taking off from the Davao International Airport en route to Manila.

Edgardo Manda, general manager of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, explained that the PAL Airbus 330 had experienced "a stalled engine" at 2,500 feet shortly after taking off from the Davao airport at about 7 p.m. last night.

"The pilot, however, managed to recover and land the plane safely," he said.

Flight PR 816, the last PAL flight out of Davao, landed safely at the Manila domestic airport at 8:10 p.m.

"All the passengers are safe," Manda said, but could not say how many passengers the plane carried or who the pilot of the plane was.

Manda said that some witnesses had reported hearing a loud explosion coming from an area about seven to eight kilometers from the Davao airport runway.

He said the sound could have come from the plane when its engine was restarted.

"If the problem was really serious, the pilot could have landed the plane at the Cebu airport," Manda said in a phone interview. *TJ Burgonio*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, November 16, 2003
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Dn 12:1-3

At that time, Michael will rise, the Great Commander who defends your people. It shall be a time of anguish as never before since the nations first existed until this very day.

Then all those whose names are written in the Book will be saved. Many of those who sleep in the Region of the Dust will awake, some to everlasting life but others to eternal horror and shame. Those who acquired knowledge will shine like the brilliance of the firmament; those who taught people to be just will shine like the stars for all eternity.

2nd Reading: Heb 10:11-14, 18

So, whereas every priest stands daily by the altar offering repeatedly the same sacrifices that can never take away sins, Christ has offered for all times a single sacrifice for sins and has taken his seat at the right hand of God, waiting until God puts his enemies as a footstool under his feet. By a single sacrifice he has brought those who are sanctified to what is perfect forever.

So, if sins are forgiven, there is no longer need of any sacrifice for sin.

Gospel: Mk 13:24-32

Jesus said to his disciples, "Later on, in those days after that disastrous time, the sun will grow dark, the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall out of the sky and the whole universe will be shaken. Then people will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And he will send the angels to gather his chosen people from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the sky.

"Learn a lesson from the fig tree. As soon as its branches become tender and it begins to sprout leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that the time is near, even at the door. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all this has happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But, regarding that Day and that Hour, no one knows when it will come, not even the angels, not even the Son, but only the Father."

Commentary

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." In this text Jesus describes the coming destruction of Jerusalem temple. For the Jews, this will be catastrophic, it is comparable to the end of the world and the natural reaction is one of panic and confusion. But Jesus assures his disciples though heaven and earth will pass away, his words will not pass away. A priest reflecting upon the tragic destruction of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, said the following words: "In the end what is important is not what glitters, but what is invisible to the eye. What is important is not the tall skyscraper but the understanding of the human heart. What is important are not the high tech gadgets but the fellowship of human race. What is important are not tough security measures but the sense of brotherhood among all peoples under one God who loves all as his children."

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"It's always good to invest in the future. What's great is that I can start NOW."

Imagine Opportunity.

A Vault at The Columbary of the Augustinian Fathers.
Memorial Cash Assistance Benefit.
In-hospitalization Income Benefit.
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Speed up probe of Roco kin, Ombudsman asked

By Armand N. Nocum

A BOOK publisher, who filed graft charges against two brothers and another relative of former Education Secretary Raul Roco three months ago for allegedly extorting P2.885 million from her, has asked the Office of the Ombudsman to speed up the resolution of the case.

Ma. Rowena Enesio, general manager of the White Orchids and Publishing House Inc., wrote Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo Friday, seeking the "speedy and early disposition" of the case even as she revealed that certain people have been calling her up and threatening her with bodily harm.

"I am making this appeal to your good office because recently my family and I have been receiving threats of physical harm over the phone," Enesio said in her letter to Marcelo.

In her complaint filed on July 31, Enesio accused Camarines Sur Rep. Sulpicio Roco, Ramon Roco, regional director of the Land Transportation Office in Naga City, and Ramoncito Roco Robles, vice mayor of Calabanga town in Camarines Sur, of alleged extortion.

According to Enesio, she gave the three officials money in exchange for the "approval and signature" of Secretary Roco on a P50-million contract from the Department of Education.

None of the accused were available for comment, but a staffer of Raul Roco's said they didn't know of any case filed against the former senator before the Ombudsman.

"I take such threats seriously because I know that my complaint could and might jeopardize the political ambition of a presidential aspirant (Roco)," Enesio said.

Roco recently announced he was running for President and has been topping poll surveys.

Although she did not directly link Roco to the alleged extortion, Enesio did mention the time Ramoncito Robles reportedly took her to the ex-senator's house in La Vista, Quezon City "sometime in May 2001."

In her affidavit, Enesio said the meeting between her, Raul Roco and Ramoncito Robles lasted only 10 minutes and she could not understand what they were saying because they were speaking in Bicol dialect.

According to her, she paid out the P2.885 million to Robles and Ramon Roco between March 26, 2001 and February 2002.

She said Robles had initially demanded P500,000 "purportedly to help finance the political campaign of Naga City Mayor Sulpicio Roco Jr., who was then running for a congressional seat in Camarines Sur."

Enesio attached to her complaint copies of cash vouchers signed by Robles and bank documents showing that as much as P1.950 million was transferred from the account to a LandBank branch in Naga City which is owned by Robles' wife Milagros.

She said she gave the bulk of the money when Robles and Ramon Roco promised to also help her bag part of the P200-million textbook contract for the Bicol Region in December 2001.

Realizing in early 2002 that she would not be getting any contract from the education department, Enesio then asked the Rocos to return the money.

Enesio said the Rocos only gave her back P600,000.

Homes to rise in former dump

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources has given the City of Manila the go-signal to proceed with the rehabilitation of the Pier 18 open dumpsite in Vitas, Tondo.

Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun, however, asked the city government to take sufficient measures to ensure that the remaining piles of waste in the area were properly disposed of.

"As part of its mandate to protect the environment, the DENR promotes environmental enhancement and rehabilitation in partnership with various sectors of society," Gozun said.

In a letter to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, Gozun commended the city for its efforts in complying with the objectives of Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

RA 9003 bans the use of open dumpsites and calls on local government units to convert these disposal sites into sanitary or controlled dumpsites, if possible.

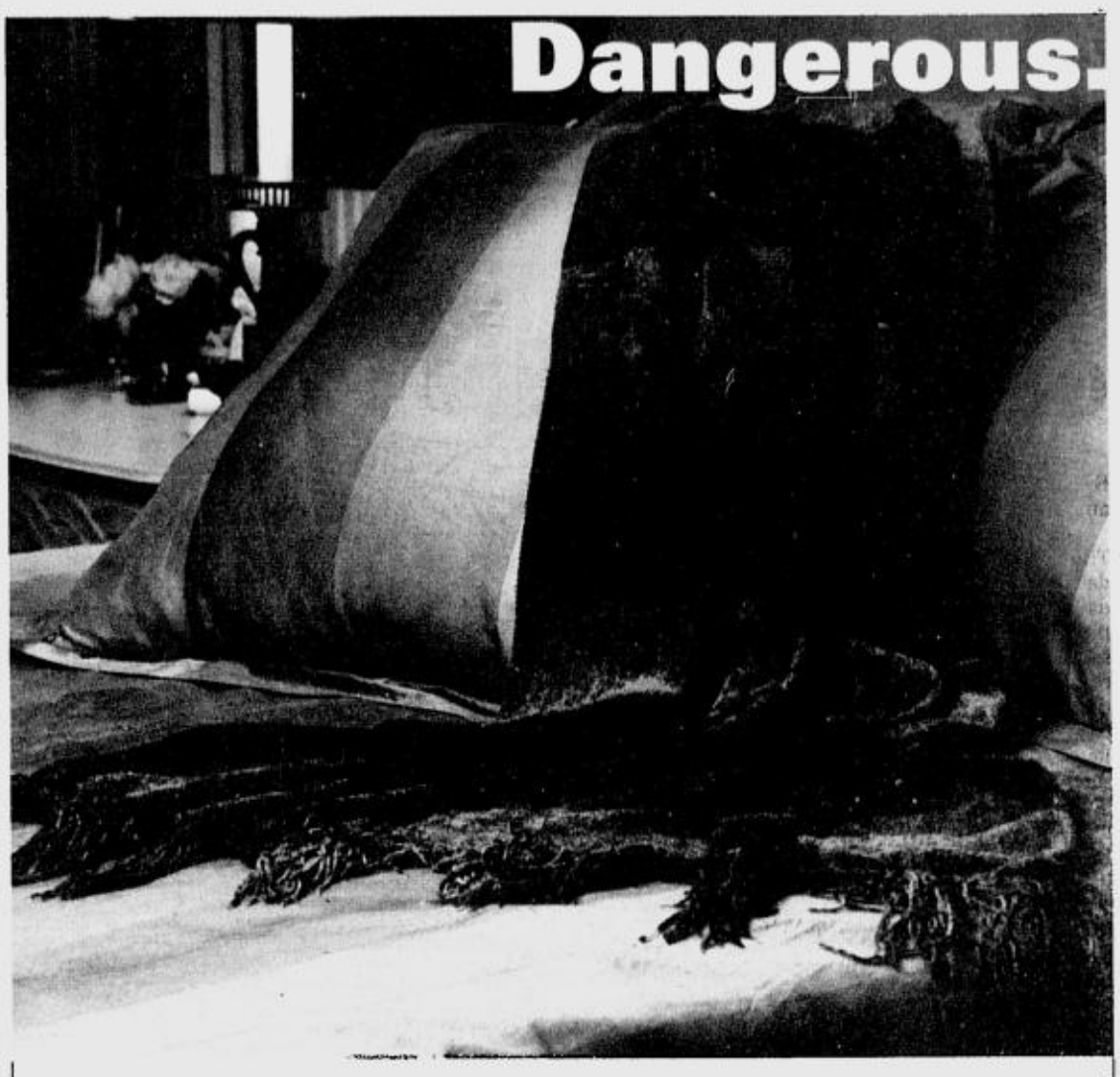
In the case of Pier 18, the city government of Manila plans to convert the dumpsite into a residential complex by ridding it of about 500,000 cubic meters of garbage coming from various service areas in Manila.

Gozun, however, cautioned Atienza to ensure that the correct measures are taken in the removal of the wastes at Pier 18, which will be undertaken from a two-hectare area within the existing seven-hectare disposal site.

The site is on reclaimed land owned by the National Housing Authority.

Gozun also clarified that prior to the rehabilitation of Pier 18, the city government should lay out the "proper mechanism to ensure that wastes, fresh or newly discharged, are accorded its respective flow with the proposed facility."

Norman Bordadora



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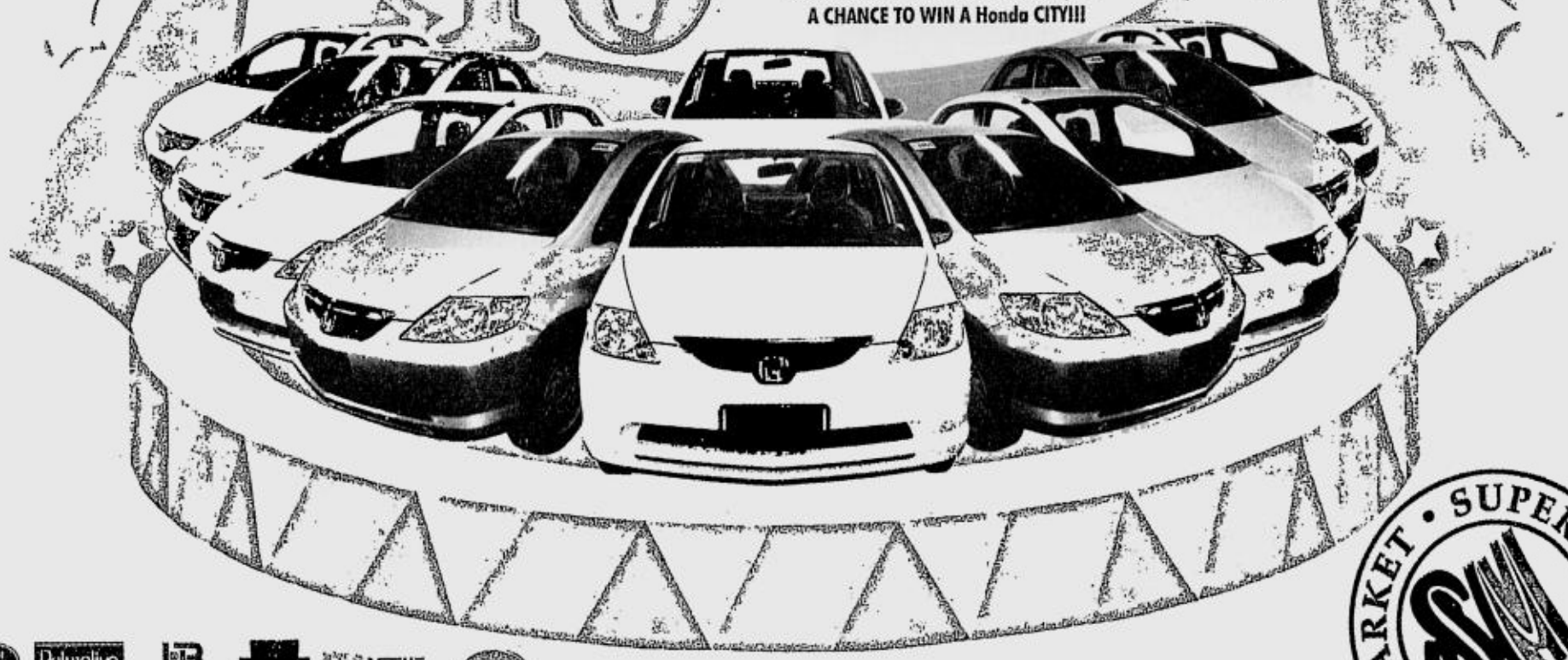

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Give up massacre suspect, military urges MILF

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The military yesterday urged the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to surrender Suay Arasid, alias "Kumander Puti Ulo," in connection with the massacre of a family of seven in Kalawit, Zamboanga del Norte, on Wednesday.

"Present Kumander Puti Ulo to give justice to the victims," was Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko's message to the MILF leadership.

Kyamko said the arrest of Arasid by the MILF would ease tensions in Barangay Poblacion in Kalawit, where the massacre happened.

"They (MILF) will also cleanse their ranks of criminals," Kyamko added.

Six of the victims were children aged 1 to 13.

"These butchers, these killers are out of their minds because they included in the massacre innocent children as young as a 1-year-old baby," Kyamko said.

He said Arasid, the overall MILF commander in Zamboanga del Norte, must have had full knowledge of the carnage since the suspects, the MILF's 3rd Unit Command leader Salludin Sumigal and his followers, were under his (Arasid's) command.

Kyamko warned the MILF that a ceasefire that is in place between the two sides does not cover those who commit common crimes.

"The peace talks do not give any immunity for any members of the MILF to conduct crimes such as the massacre of the seven innocent civilians. We are ready to hit them even if they seek refuge in their camps," he said.

Army units pursued the attackers, killing one and capturing another in a nearby village a day later. Survivors have identified MILF members as taking part in the incident.

A member of the 3rd Unit Command, identified as Paam Laidan, was arrested.

Laidan, according to Kyamko, cooperated during the tactical interrogation, "even leading to the recovery of machetes and several firearms."

"Laidan gave his testimony and we will use it to pressure the MILF to arrest, produce and present these criminals who unfortunately are members of the MILF guerrilla force in Zamboanga del Norte," Kyamko said.

Ghazali Jaafar, MILF vice chair for political affairs, said he was not "very familiar" with the name Arasid.

"If they were really MILF, what they did was without our sanction. Maybe it's a (personal) grudge, and that would mean the MILF as an organization had nothing to do with that," Jaafar said.

He urged the military and the relatives of the victims to "report the incident to the Coordinating Committee on Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH)."

He added that the MILF central committee will also welcome formal complaints, "but they have to provide us full details including the names of the MILF members who committed crimes in the area."

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu remarked that there were many armed groups active in the south who may have been behind the incident.

On Feb. 19, 14 people were killed while 10 others were wounded in a massacre by suspected MILF rebels. *With an AFP report*

ORDER OF SIKATUNA
President Macapagal-Arroyo presents a plaque and confers the Order of Sikatuna on visiting Bangladeshi Foreign Minister H.E. Morshed Khan during dinner in honor of the Foreign Minister at Malacañang Palace recently.

Cops get gear worth P23M to fight terror

THE UNITED States coordinator for counterterrorism has turned over some P23 million worth of equipment to the Philippine National Police to combat cyberterrorism, stressing that this was part of an emerging mechanism to combat terrorism in Southeast Asia.

Ambassador J. Cofer Black turned over the equipment to PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. at the launching of the police's Cyberterrorism Center in Camp Crame last Friday.

Black was in the country to map out new mechanisms to counter threats posed by the Jemaah Islamiyah with his local counterpart, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, and representatives of the multi-agency Counterterror Task Force.

The equipment, part of the US Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program (Atap), will be used by the newly created Information Technology and Cyber Crimes Division of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, officials said.

Prior to the turnover of the equipment, the US state department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security conducted a seminar and training on cyberterrorism for personnel of the PNP and other law enforcement agencies.

The turnover of the equipment came a month after Ambassador Francis Ricciardone and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina forged an agreement to boost the antiterrorism capabilities of the country. *TJ Burgonio*

Keep soldiers happy, Abu told

By TJ Burgonio

DEFENSE Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday urged new Army chief Maj. Gen. Efren Abu to constantly boost the morale of military officers and men to keep them in fighting form.

Ermita made the appeal during the change of command from Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling to Abu at Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

Camiling retired yesterday at the age of 56 after a 38-year stint in the military. He was the last member of Philippine Military Academy Class 1969 to bow out of the service.

Abu is the 45th Army chief.

Ermita hinted that Camiling would be appointed to a government post.

"Maintain and further improve the fighting capability of our soldiers," he said in his speech, addressing the 54-year-old Abu. "You can do that only if you continue to attend to (their) morale and welfare. Keep them highly motivated to accomplish their mission."

In the audience were top military officials led by Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Narciso Abaya, and retired officials led by Angelo Reyes, ambassador at large for counterterrorism.

Low morale over inadequate pay and the dearth of equipment is often cited as reasons for the restiveness among ground troops. On July 27, more than 300 disgruntled officers and enlisted men seized the Oakwood hotel in Makati.

Ermita also urged Abu to maintain the Army's cutting edge in the country's internal security operations. "I trust that you will keep (it) sharp, ready and effective," he said.

Addressing Camiling, Ermita continued, "Good luck... remember what I whispered to you earlier. This is not the end of your service."

Top military officials have been appointed to key posts in the government following their retirement. The latest is Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, who retired on Oct. 18 as deputy chief of staff, and who was recently named defense undersecretary. He was present at yesterday's ceremony.

In his farewell speech, Camiling also asked Abu to look after the welfare of every soldier: "Teach him well so that his skills will be honed and better applied. Take care of him so that he will be able to perform what he is expected to do; lead him well to ensure the success of any campaign."

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ANNOUNCEMENT
The Australian Government is to introduce the M-series Australian passport, scheduled for release in December 2003. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Consular Passport Services at the Australian Embassy Manila will cease to issue full validity (10 year) Australian passports in December 2003. Printing of the passports will be centralized in Australia. This is designed, to deliver standardized, high quality and a more secure Australian Passport. Australian Passport applications will continue to be accepted and the bulk of process will continue at the Australian Embassy Manila. In cases of emergencies the Australian Embassy will have the capacity to issue the emergency passport. For more information in light of the ongoing changes, we strongly urge Australians to monitor revised business rules and related instructions on the DFAT website and allow sufficient time for processing passports renewal. The DFAT website is at www.dfat.gov.au or call the Consular Section at telephone number 02 7578152/164 for further updates.

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Appeals court upholds Alvarez vs Picop

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE COURT of Appeals has overturned a Quezon City court's decision in October 2002 ordering former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez to pay P10 million a month to Picop Resources Inc. for his failure to grant Picop an Integrated Forest Management Agreement.

"This is a vindication of our long and uncompromising struggle to protect the country's forest lands. While we recognize the need to create wealth using our natural resources, this must be done without compromising the environment, public good and with due respect to the rule of law," Alvarez said in a statement.

On Oct. 11 last year, Quezon City Judge Jose Pineda ordered Alvarez to pay Picop P10 million in monthly damages from May 2002 and to grant the firm's IFMA application.

In its order, the CA reversed Pineda's decision because "it was not done in accordance with the provided rules" and was "an abuse of its discretion."

If the CA had upheld the ruling, Alvarez would have owed Picop P190 million for the past 19 months.

In its ruling, the appellate court also ordered Picop to pay the unpaid forest charges, comply with a five-year forest protection plan and a seven-year reforestation program and get a clearance from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Alvarez said.

The case began after Alvarez refused to convert Picop's Timber License Agreement No. 43 into an IFMA when it expired on April 25, 2002. The TLA covers 121,587 hectares of land in Surigao, Agusan and Davao provinces.

Alvarez had said Picop first had to pay P167,592,440 in unpaid forest charges as of August 2002, as well as comply with other requirements of the law, before he would grant the IFMA.

He said that at the time Picop's registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission had expired. The NCIP claimed Picop's TLA overlapped the Manobos' ancestral lands.

The lands covered by TLA 43 were also within a mineral reservation President Macapagal-Arroyo had set up on Nov. 25, 2002, Alvarez said.

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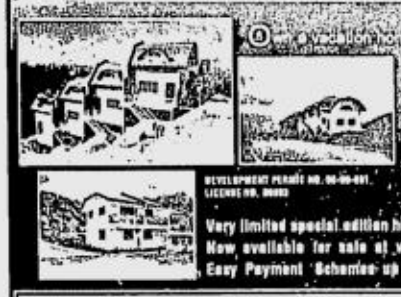

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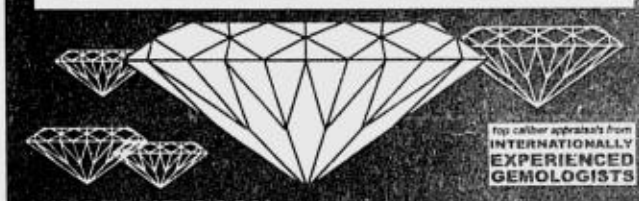

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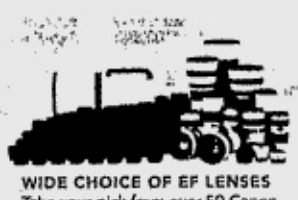

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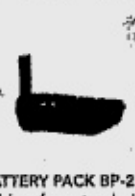

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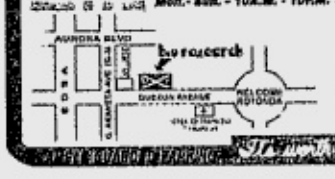

Treasure hunters nabbed on sacred Quezon mountain

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TAYABAS, Quezon—Eight persons involved in alleged illegal treasure-hunting activities atop Mt. Banahaw were arrested Wednesday by a combined team of local environment officials, police and the military in Barangay Lalo here.

Salud Pangan, Mount Banahaw-San Cristobal protected area supervisor who led the four-member team from the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, identified the suspects as Randy Noriel, Jun Napula, Andy Javier, Tenor Clado, Crisostomo Javier, Alejandro Oblefias, Richard Gerona Mayores and Antonio Asio, alias "Engineer Taba," the alleged leader of the treasure-hunting expedition.

Pangan identified Asio as the organizer of another treasure-hunting group that dug at the same mountain spot in July.

The suspects were allegedly searching for parts of the fabled "Yamashita Treasure" believed buried in the mystical mountain. Seized from the treasure hunters were assorted excavation equipment, Petromax gas lamps, chain blocks and cooking paraphernalia.

Based on accounts of some World War II survivors, the "Yamashita Treasure," which was amassed by Japanese soldiers during the war, was buried by Filipino-American prisoners-of-war in at least 172 sites across the country.

Mt. Banahaw and the Quezon national park in Atimonan have been often mentioned as burial sites of the treasure.

Mt. Banahaw is revered in local mystical and religious circles as a sacred mountain and is the site of many pilgrimages. It is believed to be inhabited by spirits and other-worldly creatures.

Several months ago, another Japanese treasure-hunting expedition came to the Quezon national park. But no treasure was found, according to government reports.

Pangan said they found Asio's new group digging in the same hole they had covered in July. The group has found nothing yet, she added.

At least six local policemen and seven Army troopers from the military's Southern Luzon Unified Command accompanied the DENR group.

Pangan said they hiked more than three hours amid intermittent rains before reaching the digging spot estimated to be more than 4,000 feet above sea level.

The diggers' makeshift sleeping area was covered with plastic jute sacks. Newly spliced tree branches and sacks served as sleeping materials on folding beds. A small lookout tower to watch out for intruders had been erected in the area, according to Pangan.

"When we were getting closer, we split the team into two groups to avoid detection and to block the diggers in case they tried to escape," she said.

At the police station, the suspects identified the alleged financiers of the treasure hunt as Froilan Ramos and Antonio Cabile.

Pangan said the group did not have a valid permit to hunt for buried treasure but only presented an application form from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

Lawyer Asis Perez, director of Tanggol Kalikasan, an environment legal defense center, said that treasure-hunting was not illegal provided the hunters had valid government permits and the activity would not have a destructive effect on the environment.

He pointed out that the suspects violated environmental protection laws when they illegally cut down trees and dug on Mt. Banahaw, which had been declared by Malacañang to be a "protected area under the category of protected landscape" on June 25, 2003 through Presidential Proclamation No. 411.

The suspects will be charged with violation of Presidential Decree 705 (Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines) and Republic Act 7586 (National Integrated Protected Area System Act of 1992). They are being held in the municipal jail here.

'GIVE US OUR COCO'
Militant groups yesterday urged the Supreme Court to overrule the Sandiganbayan coco levy fund decision favoring business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco in a press conference in Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

Pinoys rush to get out of Korea

SEOUL—Thousands of mostly Asian guest workers, many of them Filipinos, scrambled to leave South Korea or go into hiding on Saturday, the deadline for 120,000 undocumented immigrants to leave the country or be deported.

At the Inchon International Airport, crowds of workers from the Philippines, China and other Asian countries queued to catch last-minute flights out, an airport official said, while others tried to extend their stay.

Flights to such countries are almost fully booked and some delays in departure were also reported, the official said.

The government is trying to overhaul an abuse-riddled industrial trainee system under which South Korea had imported cheap labor. It is replacing the scheme with a program that allows short-term illegal workers to get proper work permits, but expels long-term undocumented workers.

The government crackdown will affect just over half of the nearly 230,000 foreign workers in Asia's fourth-largest economy. By Friday, less than a fifth of the 120,000 had left, a justice ministry official said.

Two workers, men from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, killed themselves this week to avoid forced repatriation, while groups of workers and rights advocates went on to sit-in protests and hunger strikes to protest the crackdown, police and media reports said. *Reuters*

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Gov't to appeal Kuratong case

By Philip C. Tubeza

A PRIVATE lawyer in the Kuratong Baleleng case yesterday said the prosecution will appeal the dismissal of the murder cases against Sen. Panfilo Lacson and 32 others.

Lawyer Arno Sanidad said in a telephone interview: "There was a crime and we cannot tolerate that."

He said the prosecution will file a motion for reconsideration of Quezon City Judge Theresa Yadao's ruling junking the reopening of the case on Tuesday "at the earliest."

More questions

Sanidad said the prosecution will also raise questions about Yadao's decision but he declined to elaborate.

Sanidad said that contrary to the findings of the judge, who dismissed the case last week, there was "probable cause" since the policemen had admitted killing the 11 suspected Kuratong Baleleng gang members in 1995.

"That is probable cause. That is not for the prosecution to prove because it is already proven. What the courts would determine is whether it was legitimate or a rubout," said Sanidad.

He said Yadao was "clearly biased" and just "picked and chose" from the evidence that the prosecution presented in the case.

Sanidad likewise dismissed the allegations of Chief Supt. Francisco Zubia and 10 other accused policemen that they were being "persecuted" when the state moved to have the case reopened.

Besides Lacson, Zubia and the policemen who held a press conference on Friday, 20 other policemen were accused in the case which started with the shooting deaths of the Kuratong gang members on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, on May 18, 1995.

Sanidad also scored Yadao for going on television and radio to defend her decision and say that she would stick to it, when the case could still be appealed before her court.

'Clear bias'

"Have you ever seen a judge go on television and radio defending her ruling, saying that she would stand by it? By that alone she showed her clear bias," he said.

Yadao gave interviews to the media on Thursday to defend her decision junking the case against Lacson and the other accused for "lack of probable cause."

She stood firm in her decision, saying she didn't care what other people said or even if it cost her her job.

"She has obviously prejudged it. It is simple *delicadeza* (that a judge does not give interviews about a live case being heard in her court)," Sanidad said.

Sanidad did question Yadao's conduct in a 1999 case, where the Supreme Court fined the woman judge for failing to issue an arrest warrant in a murder case in Maddela, Quirino.

Sanidad said Yadao even tried to cover up her failure to issue the warrant.

"You noticed she tried to falsify the police records. That is even worse than failing to issue a warrant," Sanidad said.

On Nov. 29, 2002, the SC's Third Division fined Yadao P20,000 for failing to issue the arrest warrant, "with a stern warning that a repetition of the same offense will be dealt with more severely."

The high court ruled that Yadao had violated the Code of Judicial Conduct which admonishes "all judges, among others, to dispose of the court's business promptly."

The case arose after complainant Judith Ermitanio told the high court that despite the filing on March 18, 1999 of a criminal case against two suspects in the murder of her husband, Yadao failed to issue arrest warrants against them.

She said it was only on March 7, 2000, or after one year, that Yadao issued a warrant—dated March 26, 1999—allegedly after learning of the administrative complaint against her.

In its decision, the SC said that policemen in Maddela and the provincial prosecutor of Quirino all testified that Yadao did not issue an arrest warrant after the murder case was filed in court.

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Solon: Make union leaders inspectors

THE PARTIDO ng Manggagawa (PM) has urged the Department of Labor and Employment to deputize union presidents as labor inspectors as part of widespread reforms to improve the efficiency of the labor department.

According to PM party-list Rep. Renato Magtubo, the Dole has perennially been complaining about its lack of inspectors to investigate employers' compliance with labor standards.

This lack of inspectors, Magtubo said, is one of the main reasons for the proliferation of sweat shops and the continued violation of workers' rights.

"Worse, Dole suffers not only from a shortage of labor inspectors; graft and corrupt practices during labor inspections are also common. Yet the secretary could only suspend inspections for the year-end holidays, presumably because these dastardly acts are rampant during this time of the year," he said.

Magtubo was reacting to acting Labor Secretary Manuel Imson's extension of the traditional ban on labor inspections during the holidays from six to nine weeks.

The move is part of the Dole's attempt to eliminate graft.

But for Magtubo, the ban would not really combat corrupt practices but merely postpone it.

"To really curb corruption and enhance the capability of the labor department, the secretary must deputize labor leaders, particularly union presidents, as inspectors," he said.

"It is unlikely for union presidents to be engaged in corrupt activities because they are workers themselves and, therefore, would understand more and sympathize with victims of labor code violations," Magtubo, who is concurrently union president of Fortune Tobacco Corp., said.

The ban on labor inspections, he also warned, could be detrimental to the workers because it allows for unfair labor practices during the holiday season.

"Workers have no reason to celebrate the holidays since the labor department itself would not scrutinize employers who are 'naughty or nice' with the labor code," he said. *Martin P. Marfil*

SC saves Japanese convict from death

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court has commuted the death sentence on a Japanese national who was caught in Bacolod City in April 1994 with 1.9 kilos of marijuana inside a box of piaya, a local delicacy.

In an en banc resolution, the high court ordered Hedishi Suzuki's sentence commuted to 40 years in prison and lowered his original fine to P1 million.

The Bacolod Regional Trial Court had sentenced Suzuki to death and to pay a fine of P10 million.

"In the case at bar, there being no mitigating or aggravating circumstance, appellant's possession of 1,547.7 grams of marijuana does not merit the supreme penalty of death but only reclusion perpetua," said the decision penned by Justice Aneglina Sandoval-Gutierrez.

"While the imposition of a fine is mandatory in cases of conviction for possession of illegal drugs, we, however, reduce the fine imposed by the trial court to P1 million, considering that courts may fix any amount within the limits established by law," the tribunal said.

The SC also affirmed the authority of the Police Aviation Security Command to open packages and cargo, which Suzuki had challenged.

"This is not the first time we recognize a search conducted pursuant to routine airport security procedures as an exception to the proscription against warrantless searches ... clearly Pascom agents have the right under the law to conduct searches for prohibited materials or substances," the high tribunal said.

The court also dismissed Suzuki's defense that he was framed by a fellow Japanese, Takeshi Koketsu, and policemen. He said he came to the Philippines to collect a P500,000 debt from Koketsu who failed to pay up.

Suzuki said it was a prostitute named Pinky who gave him the box of piaya. He said he did not inspect the box.

"It is noteworthy that aside from appellant's testimony, not a shred of evidence was presented by the defense to prove his claim that he was framed. Not even Pinky who allegedly gave him the box of piaya containing marijuana was presented as a witness to confirm his story," the SC said.

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Tatad bares P100B customs bonds scam

By Jerry Esplanada

LOCAL bonding companies have defrauded the government of up to P100 billion in "one of the biggest, most rotten and continuing, if not permanent scams" in the country, according to former Sen. Francisco Tatad.

Tatad told a news conference yesterday the scam also involved importers and corrupt officials of the Department of Finance, Bureau of Customs and Insurance Commission,

Worse, Malacañang seems "clueless about it," the opposition leader said.

Citing "records gathered from official sources," Tatad said local bonding companies had "succeeded in ripping off the government simply by refusing to liquidate due and demandable export and re-export customs bonds that have accumulated in the last 17 years."

"While not paying what they owe the government, the bonding companies may have been collecting from reinsurance companies, thereby doubling their take," he said.

At the same time, manufacturers who were allowed to import raw materials duty and tax-free, on condition these would be re-exported as finished products, have continuously failed to re-export them without paying the previously waived duties and taxes or any subsequent penalties, said Tatad.

According to the former senator, "an entire industry seems to be in collusion with fraudulent importers and corrupt elements in government."

"Records show this triad is responsible for an estimated revenue loss of at least P50 billion in ports all over the country," Tatad said.

Bureau of Customs records showed that from 1986 to 1996, custom bonded warehouses incurred unliquidated obligations of more than P15.7 billion.

In March 2000, 17 surety firms in three major ports had unliquidated accounts of over P4.6 billion, according to the ex-senator.

In June 2000, the country's top 10 surety firms had an outstanding account of more than P4.4 billion.

"There have been no reports of payments since. The total has since ballooned," said Tatad. "If collected, the revenue could easily shrink the budgetary deficit."

That is why, he said, it was "absolutely necessary that the continuing crime be stopped, the money collected and the guilty parties brought to justice."

Tatad recalled that three years ago the House of Representatives' good government panel conducted an inquiry into the controversy and made certain recommendations.

"Insurance Commissioner Eduardo Malinis had assured the House committee then that he would not renew the licenses of delinquent surety firms. It appears (Malinis) misled the congressmen and ignored their recommendations altogether," Tatad said.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to get Malinis' reaction to Tatad's expose.

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US wants Iraq self-rule by June–NYT

WASHINGTON—The US administrator in Iraq, Paul Bremer, has told Iraqi leaders that Washington wants a new national assembly to meet next spring to elect a transitional government to take over from the United States by next summer, ABC News and the New York Times reported.

The New York Times reported on Saturday the handover could take place as early as June.

ABC television, reporting on Friday, said Bremer met with Iraqi leaders on Friday in Baghdad and told them Washington wants the Iraqi Governing Council to quickly draft a bill of rights for the Iraqi people and a timetable for national elections.

The New York Times reported on Saturday that the Bush administration has agreed to restore Iraq's independence as early as June. Bremer told Iraqi leaders late on Friday that Washington had broadly accepted a plan to accelerate the transfer of power which they put forward this week.

ABC News did not identify its sources, or name the leaders with whom Bremer had met. The Times report quoted Ahmad Chalabi, an Iraqi Governing Council member who saw Bremer on Friday night, as saying: "This is good for everyone... We will have the US forces here, but they will change from occupiers to a force that is here at the invitation of the Iraqi government."

ABC reported that Bremer had proposed to the Iraqis that tribal elders and other leaders from Iraq's 18 provinces meet next spring to choose delegates for a new national assembly, which would in turn elect a transitional government by next summer.

The United States would hand over power to this body, according to the US plan, ABC reported. The Times said Bremer would meet with the full 24-member council on Saturday.

The writing of a new Iraqi constitution and full national elections would follow the election of the transitional government within the next two years, it said.

The accelerated timetable for transfer of power comes amid an escalating violent guerrilla campaign against the US-led occupation forces and growing frustration among American officials with the apparent inaction of the Governing Council. *Reuters*

4 more Americans killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD—Four more Americans were killed in Iraq as the US military stepped up the fight against armed resistance to its occupation, foiling a planned rocket attack on a US base, while Washington moved to speed the handover of political power to Iraqis.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Friday denied that the American-led coalition in Iraq was in trouble, while US overseer Paul Bremer headed back to Baghdad from Washington with orders to accelerate the transfer of power and security control to Iraqis and spur the drafting of a constitution.

But US Secretary of State Colin Powell said later Friday that no new leader for Iraq had yet emerged, dealing a potential blow to members of the interim Iraqi Governing Council who may aspire to run the country.

On the ground in Iraq, two US soldiers were killed and three wounded in a bomb attack on their convoy 110 km north of Baghdad, the US military said.

And a 1st Armored Division soldier died of wounds suffered when his convoy was hit in a similar attack in central Baghdad, another military statement said.

The soldiers' deaths raised to 159 the number of US troops killed in combat in Iraq since May 1, when US President George W. Bush declared major hostilities over.

And an American civilian working for the US army was killed and another wounded when assailants opened fire on them as they were traveling north of Baghdad near Balad, a military spokesperson said.

A US helicopter gunship killed seven people allegedly preparing to fire rockets at a US base in northern Iraq and troops later found hundreds of other missiles and rockets, the same spokesperson said.

The offensive was part of "Operation Ivy Cyclone," launched after the downing of a US Blackhawk helicopter near Tikrit on Nov. 7, killing all six on board, she added.

A senior military officer said US forces in Tikrit early Friday captured four men suspected of involvement in the downing of US helicopters.

In Baghdad, the 1st Armored Division pursued Operation Iron Hammer air and ground offensive, targeting insurgents said to be Saddam supporters.

US President George W. Bush, speaking in Washington in hopes of easing concern over a hasty US withdrawal from Iraq, vowed that US-led troops would not leave until that war-ravaged nation is "free and peaceful."

"We will stay until the job is done," he said. "And the job is for Iraq to be free and peaceful... And we'll find Saddam Hussein."

In Basra, dozens of Iraqi police armed with AK-47 assault rifles stood guard at various government establishments and installations, and controlled the southern port city's main entrances and intersections.

South of Basra, a Portuguese journalist was abducted after his convoy came under attack while crossing into Iraq from Kuwait, media in Lisbon reported.

Coalition civilian staff in Basra were confined to their headquarters for the next 36 hours for security reasons, a spokesman said following Wednesday's attack on an Italian base in Nasiriyah which killed 18 Italian soldiers and nine Iraqis.

Italian armed police also sealed off early Friday the riverside area under the bombed out base and searched the Euphrates river in vain for two hours for possible human remains of missing comrades or civilians. *AFP*

A BUGLER plays "Taps" during a funeral service for Army Sgt. Maj. Cornell Gilmore at Arlington National Cemetery Nov. 14 in Washington, DC. Gilmore, 45, of Stafford, Virginia, died Nov. 7 in Tikrit, Iraq when the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter he was riding in was downed by a missile. AFP

Afghan blast kills 3 US soldiers

KABUL—At least three US soldiers were killed in eastern Afghanistan after their car went over a mine planted by militants, a top Afghan official said on Saturday, but the US military said there was only one fatality in the attack.

The incident happened on Friday not far from a US military base in Manogi district, Kunar province, near the border with Pakistan, said Kunar's governor, Sayed Fazl Akbar.

"The car was hit by a freshly laid mine," Akbar said. "Three American soldiers lost their lives and the car itself was totally destroyed."

But US military spokesperson Col. Rodney Davis said that only one soldier from the 11,500-strong US-led force in Afghanistan had been killed. A US statement released late on Friday also said there had been one fatality in the attack near Asadabad in Kunar.

"One special operations force soldier was wounded and one special operations soldier died of his wounds in the vicinity of Asadabad," Davis told reporters.

Kunar's governor blamed remnants of the ousted Taliban, their al-Qaida allies or followers of former prime minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar for the explosion.

The blast came a day after four Afghans were killed and three wounded when their car was hit by a remote-controlled device on the same road as Friday's attack.

Witnesses said the earlier attack was apparently intended for a vehicle from US-led forces which had passed by shortly before the device was triggered.

Just over a week ago US-led forces launched a new operation in the northeastern provinces of Kunar and Nuristan to hunt down militants and take over their bases in the area.

Akbar said US forces had been scouring villages as part of Operation "Mountain Resolve." He had no details of militant casualties or arrests.

The Taliban, al-Qaida and Hekmatyar have all called a jihad, or holy war, against foreign troops in Afghanistan, although the level of coordination between the three is unclear.

At least 12 soldiers from US-led forces in Afghanistan or CIA agents have been killed since August in an acceleration of attacks by militants. Well over 350 people in total have been killed in violence in around three months.

The violence is the bloodiest since the fall of the Taliban and comes amid concern that the Taliban is regrouping. *Reuters*

LIBERAL Party's Paul Martin celebrates after being voted the new leader at the party's convention in Toronto, Ontario, Nov 14. AP

Next Canada PM Martin vows closer ties with US

TORONTO—Paul Martin, who will become the next prime minister of Canada after being elected Liberal Party leader late Friday, vowed to forge closer ties with the United States and continue economic discipline he started nearly a decade ago.

At the Liberal Party convention at the Air Canada Center here, 3,242 of 3,455 delegates, or 93.9 percent, voted for the 65-year-old former finance minister, whose life-long ambition has been to become Canada's prime minister.

The only other Liberal contender, Sheila Copps, who gave an unofficial concession speech earlier Friday, garnered 211 votes, or 6.1 percent.

"I am very proud of all that we have achieved over the last 10 years. But today the moment has arrived to move forward, to take another step," Martin said in his speech, frequently interrupted by cheers and standing ovations.

"First, we must pursue a new politics of achievement: we must ensure a place of influence and pride for Canada in the world; we must build a truly 21st-century economy; we must strengthen the social foundations of Canadian life," he added.

Part of securing a place of interest involves mending the soured Canadian-US relations, which have stung Prime Minister Jean Chretien's government.

"We need a proud partnership based on mutual respect with our closest friend and nearest neighbor (the United States). Two nations with many shared values but each acting independently," Martin said.

He also promised to try to forge closer ties with provincial and territorial leaders, whom he will be meeting with on Sunday, and to make Canadian cities stronger.

But Martin also looked beyond the North American continent, saying Canada must work to "develop new thinking about how the international community governs itself and how sovereign nations take action together in tackling global issues." *AFP*

Putin: Yukos affair won't be repeated

MOSCOW—President Vladimir Putin vowed before Russia's business leaders Friday there would be "no return to the past" in a clear reference to investors' jitters over a crackdown on the Yukos oil giant.

But he also took a swipe at the embattled oil company and its jailed former chief Mikhail Khodorkovsky by saying that the practice of big business lobbying its interests through parliament would no longer be tolerated.

Khodorkovsky is the only Russian tycoon to openly finance opposition parties ahead of Dec. 7 elections and analysts speculate that this flaunting of wealth may have sparked the Kremlin's ire over the summer.

But Putin was firm in explaining to hundreds of top business leaders crowded in a posh Moscow mansion that the Yukos affair was a one-off that would not lead to a renationalization of top companies.

"There will be no return to the past," Putin told a congress of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs that sought clear new rules of the game in the state's relationship with business in the wake of the Yukos affair.

Putin had not initially been expected to touch on Yukos and Khodorkovsky—Russia's richest man and one of his biggest political foes—after accepting an invitation to attend the congress.

But he made Yukos his focus Friday—without ever mentioning the company by name.

He accused some businesses of "lobbying their interests through the government so that their competitors are hurt.

"We are coming to a point that whoever pays more to his majesty the bureaucrat gets his way," a visibly angry Putin said.

Yet Putin also conceded that an inquiry by prosecutors into the country's largest oil company has upset the business community and vowed to defend their broader interests.

"The government, of course, has to act when laws are broken, but it must also defend everyone, including business," Putin said in some of his most reassuring words to the business community since Khodorkovsky's Oct. 25 arrest. *AFP*

In China, rat poison preferred for revenge killing

By Stephanie Hoo

BEIJING—Each story is ghastlier than the last. A shop owner poisons the snacks at a rival's store, and 38 people die. A widow spikes the lunch at her husband's funeral, killing 10. A man seeks vengeance against his married lover by targeting her children.

Across China, aggrieved parties are increasingly turning to an outlawed but easily available weapon: a particularly lethal form of rat poison called "Dushuqiang."

With case after lurid case being described in the state-controlled media, the Chinese government has had enough.

Authorities are executing perpetrators and seizing hundreds of tons of Dushuqiang, which translates as "strong rat poison." Police are warning that those caught supplying poison used in fatal attacks could face the death penalty, too.

Last month, Deputy Agriculture Minister Fan Xiaojian told an anti-Dushuqiang task force that while most illegal poison producers had been forced underground, the fight was not over.

"Local governments at various levels should wage large-scale and effective activities to investigate this poison, especially in the countryside," said Fan, quoted by the Communist Party newspaper People's Daily. "We should do this household to household and confiscate Dushuqiang from the hands of the masses."

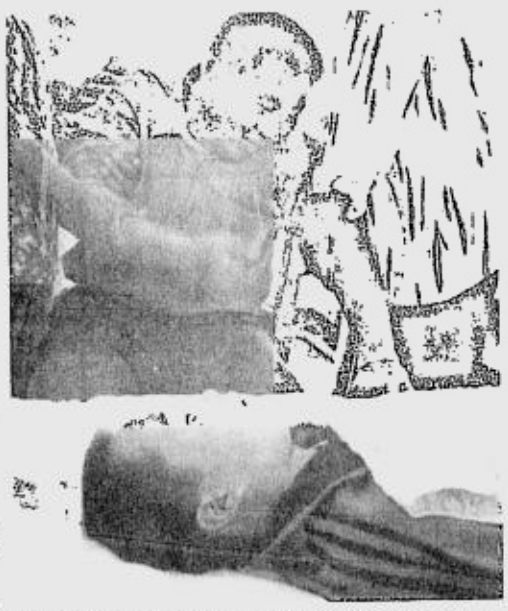
Dushuqiang (pronounced doo-shoo-CHIANG') is said to be 100 times deadlier than cyanide. Just 5 milligrams—a dusting—can kill a human being, and it remains widely available despite a ban dating to the mid-1990s.

On Thursday, in the south-central province of Hunan, a man upset because his affair with a married woman was ending tried to poison her children, state media reported.

One died, but not before he shared rat poison-laced popcorn and oranges with his young classmates, killing a second child and sickening 25 others. The man, Wei Entan, 26, tried to kill himself with poison but police stopped him, the Beijing Morning Post reported.

In central China's Hubei province, a woman motivated by a long-standing family dispute was accused of poisoning the lunch at her husband's funeral last month. Chen Xiaomei had invited much of her village, and her alleged actions killed 10 people, including the local Communist Party secretary, and sickened 23.

"Chen was said to often quarrel bitterly with the eldest daughter-in-law," the official Xinhua News Agency said, adding that the families of Chen's two sons "had long feuded over issues such as division of property and support of their parents." *AP*



A FATHER cries over the body of his child, a victim of a food poisoning incident involving rat poison in which 38 people died, in a hospital in Nanjing, in east China's Jiangsu province in this Sept. 14, 2002 file photo. AP

Suicide attacks on Istanbul synagogues kill at least 15

ISTANBUL, Turkey—Suicide car bombers attacked two synagogues in Istanbul at almost the same time Saturday, killing at least 15 people and injuring more than 140, Turkey's interior minister said.

A militant Turkish Islamic group claimed responsibility for the blasts, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

One explosion went off outside the Neve Shalom synagogue, the city's largest. The other severely damaged the Beth Israel synagogue in the affluent district of Sisli, 5 km away, where members of the city's tiny Jewish and Armenian, Greek communities live.

Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu said at least 15 people killed and 146 were injured. Earlier he said 23 people had been killed. There was no immediate explanation for the discrepancy.

Both attacks were suicide car bombings, Aksu said. Anatolia said more than 80 were wounded.

Twisted metals, shattered windows and debris from partly collapsed synagogues and nearby buildings filled the streets, while the scent of smoke and burned bodies filled the air.

Television footage showed medical teams carrying away several people, some with bloodied or charred faces. Private NTV television showed the twisted wreckage of a car and a huge crater in front of the Neve Shalom.

Sabri Yalim, the head of Istanbul's fire department, told private NTV television that the scene outside the Neve Shalom synagogue looked like a war zone.

"There is a huge pit on the ground. The houses and cars are completely destroyed, as if a huge earthquake hit the area," Yalim said.

The explosions occurred during morning Sabbath prayers, around 10 a.m. Most of the casualties appeared to be residents living nearby.

NTV television said a car was seen parked just before the explosion in front of the Neve Shalom.

"There was huge panic, glasses exploding and metal pieces all over the place. There were lots of people injured," said Enver Eker, one eyewitness. "We saw someone put a head in a cardboard box."

In a telephone call to Anatolia, a person claiming to be from the Great Eastern Islamic Raiders' Front said the militant group was responsible for the attacks, and promised more.

The caller said "the attacks would continue in the future and the reason was that to prevent the oppression against Muslims," the agency said.

Police have accused the group, also known as IBDA-C, for a bombing attack which injured 10 people in downtown Istanbul on Dec. 31, 2000. However, no one has claimed responsibility for that attack.

NTV quoted police as saying that the attack was too sophisticated to be carried by the IBDA-C alone and that recent intelligence had indicated al-Qaida could be planning attacks in Turkey.

The Neve Shalom synagogue was the sight of an attack by gunmen in 1986. The gunmen, believed to be Palestinians, killed 22 worshippers and wounded six during a Sabbath service. *AP*

A TELEVISION grab shows an injured man gesturing after at least 15people were killed and more than 140 badly injured Nov. 15, when blasts rocked two synagogues in central Istanbul, emergency services said. Israel denounced the blasts as "criminal terror attacks." The foreign ministry said, "Terror is terror whether it targets Jews or non-Jews" REUTERS

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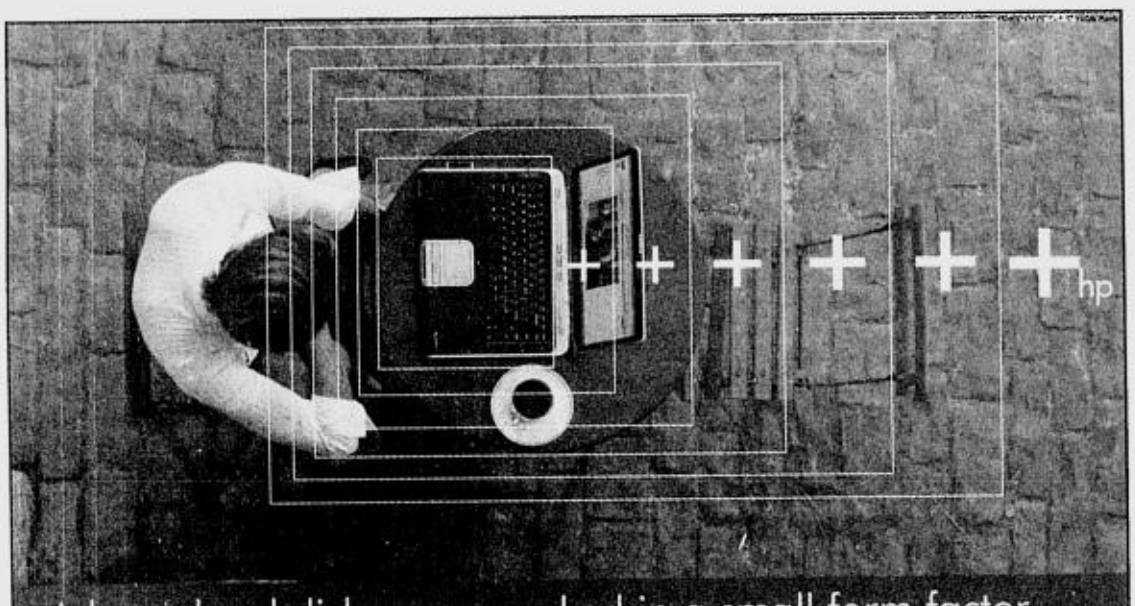

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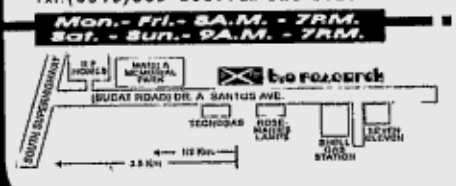

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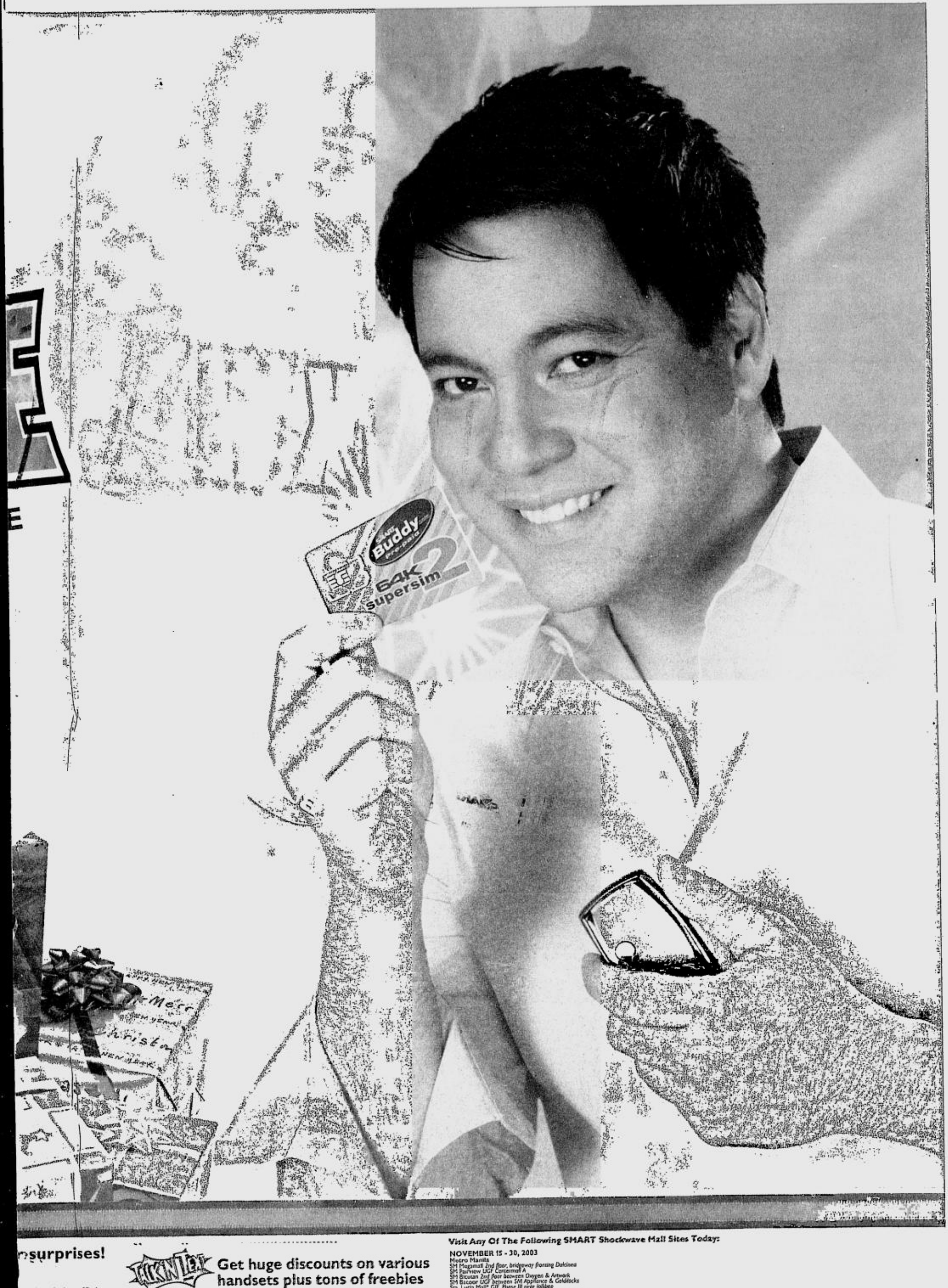

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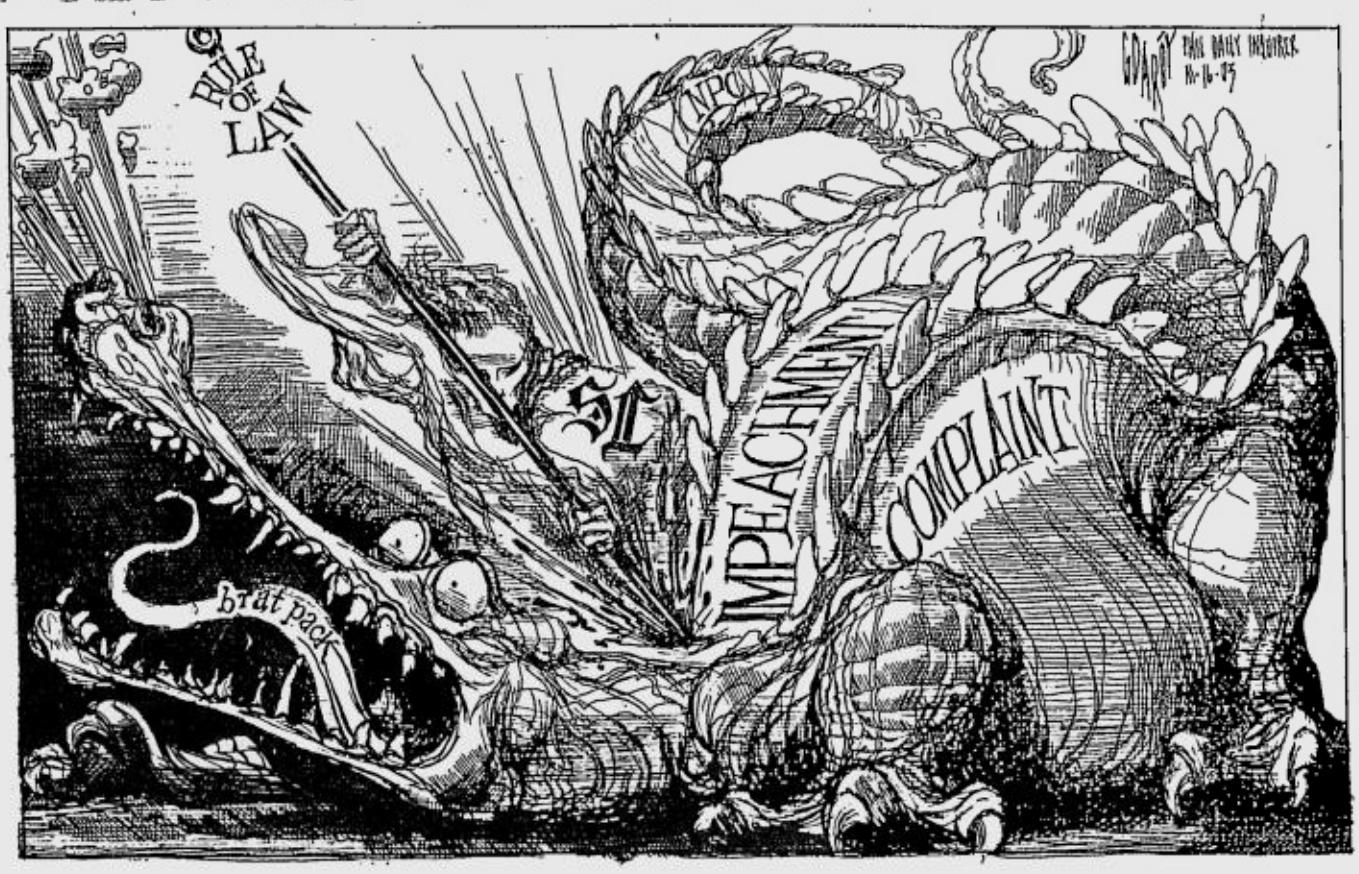

Lessons from the edge

EDITORIAL

EXCEPT for a few congressional insurgents, the impeachment wars seem to have ended in an uncertain peace. We say uncertain, because the pro-impeachment representatives have apparently learned the wrong lessons from the constitutional crisis they had started in the first place.

Rep. Michael John Duavit (NPC, Rizal) may have spoken for all the members of the so-called Brat Pack, the scions of wealthy families and political dynasties who pushed the second impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., when he explained his vote to overturn Speaker Jose de Venecia's ruling upholding the Supreme Court decision last week.

If there was one thing he learned since the second complaint was filed on Oct. 23, the 33-year-old lawmaker said, it was the power of public opinion. "Public opinion is king," he said, because it was public opinion that killed the impeachment drive.

At first blush, Duavit's statement seems to be strongly pro-democratic. He seems to be restating the fundamental basis of democratic societies, that sovereignty resides in the people. On second look, however, Duavit is actually calling that basic premise into question.

Public opinion did not kill the impeachment drive; the Constitution, speaking through the Supreme Court, did. The high court did not rule on the substance of the complaint, only on the process the complaint went through. The Supreme Court heard from eight friends of the court and at least three intervenors (including a sitting senator) before reaching its decision, but in the end it followed its constitutional role by keeping its own counsel.

In other words, it based its ruling only on "facts and the law"—the legal principle of decision-making that distinguishes the judiciary from the two other political branches of government. In fact, the landmark decision written by Associate Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales made a special point of rejecting arguments that were premised on public opinion. The *ponencia* made short shrift, for instance, of the argument that the tribunal refrain from issuing a ruling, because to do so "would start, if not precipitate," a constitutional crisis.

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* * *

Think about it, we all will die. Either we die OF something or, FOR something. Are you living FOR something or FOR someone in this life now aside from yourself and your immediate family?

* * *

Our fifth book, "Inquirer Moments" (Year C) is now available at National Bookstore. It is a collection of my Sunday columns in the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Please consider it as a possible Christmas gift, and help our Filipino missionaries abroad.

* * *

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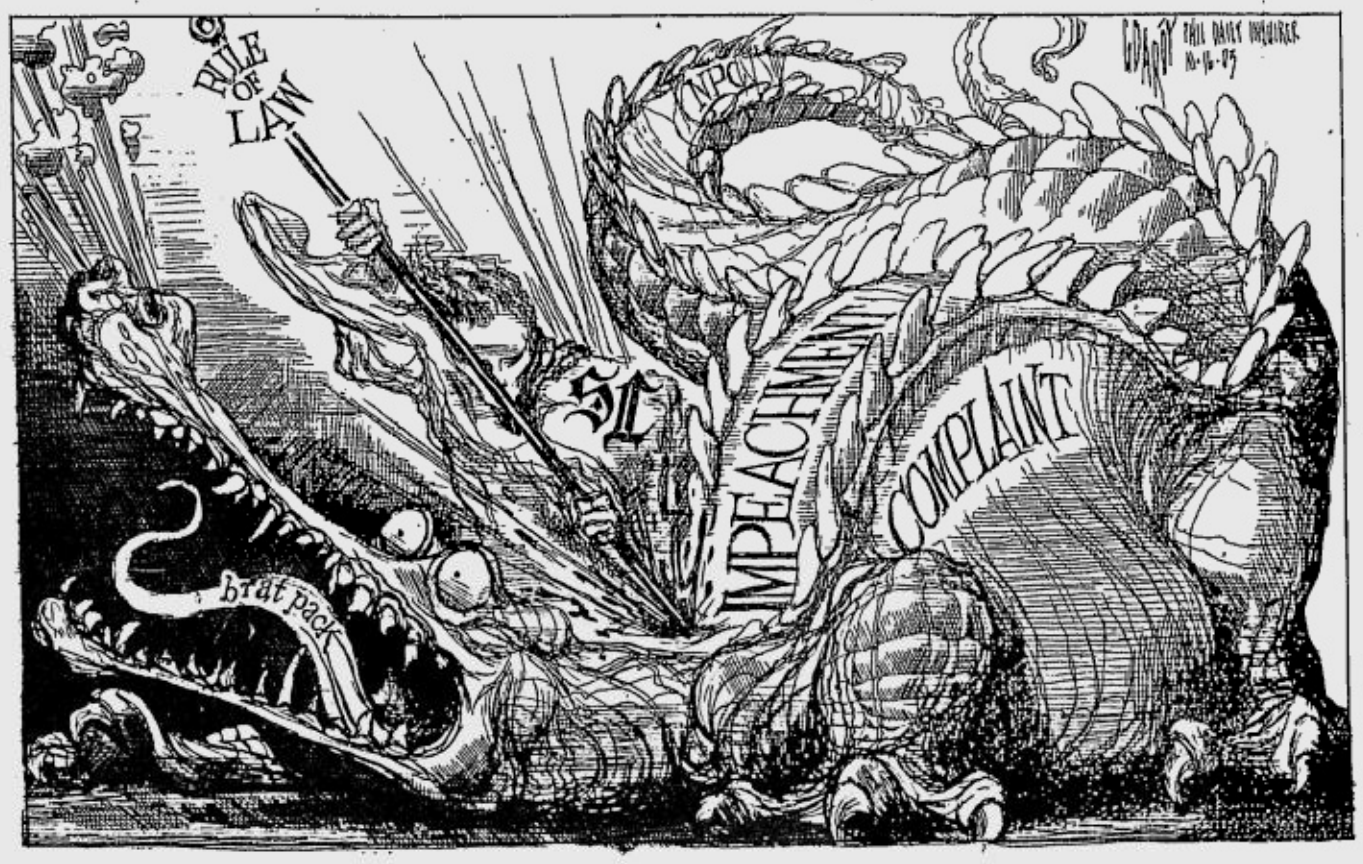

Lessons from the edge

EXCEPT for a few congressional insurgents, the impeachment wars seem to have ended in an uncertain peace. We say uncertain, because the pro-impeachment representatives have apparently learned the wrong lessons from the constitutional crisis they had started in the first place.

EDITORIAL

Rep. Michael John Duavit (NPC, Rizal) may have spoken for all the members of the so-called Brat Pack, the scions of wealthy families and political dynasties who pushed the second impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., when he explained his vote to overturn Speaker Jose de Venecia's ruling upholding the Supreme Court decision last week.

If there was one thing he learned since the second complaint was filed on Oct. 23, the 33-year-old lawmaker said, it was the power of public opinion. "Public opinion is king," he said, because it was public opinion that killed the impeachment drive.

At first blush, Duavit's statement seems to be strongly pro-democratic. He seems to be restating the fundamental basis of democratic societies, that sovereignty resides in the people. On second look, however, Duavit is actually calling that basic premise into question.

Public opinion did not kill the impeachment drive; the Constitution, speaking through the Supreme Court, did. The high court did not rule on the substance of the complaint, only on the process the complaint went through. The Supreme Court heard from eight friends of the court and at least three intervenors (including a sitting senator) before reaching its decision, but in the end it followed its constitutional role by keeping its own counsel.

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Abu now commands the Philippine Army

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST July, I visited Camp Mateo Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, the home of the Second Infantry Division, known as the "Jungle Fighter" Division. The commander of the Division at that time was a two-star general, with the most unlikely name of Efren Abu. It turned out that although he was a Batangueño who grew up in a place called Mataas na Kahoy in Lipa City, just outside Fernando Air Base, Abu's forebears came from the Sulu archipelago, possibly from a family of seafaring traders from the South who eventually settled down along the coast of Batangas where they intermarried with the locals.

Abu graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in the Class of 1972, just a few months prior to the declaration of martial law in September of the same year. The current flag officer in command of the Philippine Navy, Vice Adm. Ernesto de Leon, is also a member of the same class. The topnotcher of their class is PNP Chief Supt. Eduardo Gador, who also garnered many of the individual awards during their graduation ceremonies. The commanding general of the Air Force, Lt. Gen. Nestor Santillan, as well as the chief, Philippine National Police, Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., both belong to the Class of 1970. By coincidence or design, the Class of 1971 has been left out from command of any of the major services although two of their batchmates, Gregorio Honasan and Panfilo Lacson, are members of the Philippine Senate.

Actually, there were three major contenders to succeed retiring Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling Jr. as commanding general of the Philippine Army.

First was Lt. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, the current head of the Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom). Dominguez, a member of PMA Class 1971, was the most senior of the three candidates. His service reputation is one of the best in the Army, but unfortunately it was tainted by allegations of misconduct in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf, particularly with the escape of bandits holding civilian hostages in the parish church of Lamitan in Basilan province.

When Gracia Burnham's book, "In the Presence of My Enemies," was published a few months ago, she reported alleged collusion between the military and Abu Sayyaf elements during her captivity. No less than President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered an investigation into the charges. There were reports that Justice Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez even went to interview Burnham about her revelations. But after nearly six months nothing has been heard from the Department of Justice which was tasked to investigate the matter. Like a number of fact-finding bodies that have been created to look into various controversies, nothing has come out from these highly publicized orders from the President. If it is any consolation to Dominguez, it should be pointed out that ever since the accusations of Fr. Cirilo Nacorda were made against him, he has been twice promoted in rank and confirmed by the Senate.

The second candidate was Maj. Gen. Efren Abu, the Army vice commander. As mentioned in my earlier column on him, much of Abu's career was spent in Mindanao fighting insurgents both Christian and Moro. He was a figure of trust and friendship among the Moros, and within the Army community he developed a reputation for dedicated service, coupled with high personal integrity. In conversations with various officers in the Army, both active and retired, he has invariably been held in high regard and esteem.

The third candidate was Maj. Gen. Alberto Braganza, the commander of the Seventh Infantry Division based at Fort Magsaysay. A product of the ROTC program, Braganza graduated from the University of Santo Tomas and served as chief of staff of the Philippine Army. For a while he was also senior military assistant and aide-de-camp to President Macapagal. Recently, he was appointed to head the Southern Command (Southcom), replacing Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko who is slated to take over the National Capital Region Defense Command. Our congratulations and best wishes to the new commander of the Army, Lt. Gen. Efren Abu.

* * *

In the light of the recent Naia control tower incident, much has been written about the "overkill" which characterized the actions of the SWAT team in carrying out their mission. Even the Senate has come out to investigate the matter, although one would think they had their hands full on other matters.

Webster's dictionary defines "overkill" as "an excess of something beyond what is required or suitable for a particular purpose." The relevant question is: Who is in the best position to determine what amount of force is required for a particular purpose, especially in a life-and-death situation, or in the course of securing a highly sensitive national installation which is necessary in protecting the lives of air travelers?

While carrying out their mission, the SWAT team could not possibly have been listening to the conversation between ex-ATO chief Panfilo Villaruel and his dzBB radio interviewer. As far as the team was concerned, their mission was to neutralize the armed individuals who had forcibly taken over the control tower for reasons known only to them. Continued non-action on the part of the authorities could have resulted in more serious consequences.

What does the SC decision mean?

COMMENTARY

Fr. Ranhilio Callangan Aquino

AFTER THE SUPREME Court promulgated its judgment, it was apparent that instruction in the fundamentals of political law is urgently called for. Even the sonority in the Lower House echoed misapprehension of political law and its philosophical presuppositions.

So what did the Supreme Court decide?

First, it maintained that it was its duty to determine whether or not the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. ran afoul of the Constitution or not. Judicial review is one way the judiciary checks on the acts of the legislature and of the executive—not to hold them in check, really, but to keep their actions within constitutional limits. Consequently, the Supreme Court has also rejected the thesis that impeachment cases are beyond the pale of judicial review. In short, the proposition that in impeachment cases, there is no court higher than the Senate is wrong, for while the Senate tries the respondent and determines—beyond the scope of appeal or review—guilt or innocence, any transgression of constitutional provisions in regard to impeachment will invite judicial scrutiny.

What of American doctrinal authority that leaves impeachment proceedings solely to the legislature? The Supreme Court declares the severance of the juridical "umbilical cord." The grant of the power of judicial review to American courts is implied. Under the 1987 Constitution, the grant of the same power to the Supreme Court and to all other courts is express and expanded. There are also differences in the "impeachment clauses" of the American and Philippine Constitutions, the latter embodying limitations to the grounds, initiation and prosecution of this process of accountability.

Second, it recognized the standing of the motley bunch of petitioners—that included me—to bring the consolidated cases. Although *obiter* the Supreme Court draws from the indicia of a "transcendental issue" formulated by one of the Brethren—retired Supreme Court Justice Florentino Feliciano: the character of the funds or assets involved; clear disregard of a constitutional or statutory provision; lack of any party with a more direct interest.

Third, in ruling that there was indeed something for the Court to review—what in legalese is known as "ripeness for judicial review"—the Court enunciated a most important doctrine: Neither the House of Representatives nor the Senate can rule with definitiveness on the issue of constitutionality. This is nothing more than a corollary of the Rule of Law and the supremacy of the Constitution.

Fourth: Is the issue justiciable? In resolving this issue, the Court does two things. The Court insists that the distinction between the "political" and the "justiciable" question is alive. Second, it teaches that Baker v. Carr is no longer that useful, given the amplitude of judicial power under our Constitution. Quite usefully, the Supreme Court draws the line thus: "In our jurisdiction, the determination of a truly political question from a non-justiciable political question lies in the answer to the question of whether there are constitutionally imposed limits on powers or functions conferred upon political bodies. If there are, then our courts are duty-bound to examine whether the branch or instrumentality of the government properly acted within such limits." Put as simply as possible, whenever the acts of a branch or instrumentality of government are hemmed in by constitutional requirements or limits, there judicial review will lie to determine whether or not these requirements have been fulfilled or the limits transgressed.

Fifth: It is not for the Court to determine whether or not the offenses alleged in the impeachment complaint constitute valid impeachable offenses under the Constitution. This, the Court holds, would call on the Court to determine what constitutes an impeachable offense—a matter which it says is left to the legislature in impeachment proceedings.

I argued in my own petition that it was for the Court to determine whether or not the allegations constituted an impeachable offense, for indeed there are constitutional limits, namely, the categories of offenses enumerated by Article XI. I wonder what is to stand in the way of a committee of Congress to find use "betrayal of public trust" as its way of striking back at the Court that affirms a conviction, say, in a BP 22 case when the accused is a friend of at least one-third of the members of the Lower House?

However, *curia locuta*... the Court has spoken and it has enunciated doctrine. That will bind, because the Court is Supreme!

Sixth: The amended Rule of the House on "initiation" is unconstitutional. Congress' power to enact rules relative to impeachment then is not absolute, but must be conformable with the Constitution. The records of the Constitutional Commission make clear that the intent of the framers was to reckon initiation from the time a complaint for impeachment is filed and referred to the Committee on Justice in the Lower House. There is a difference between an "impeachment case"—that only the Lower House can initiate—and "impeachment proceedings," that are initiated by the filing of an impeachment complaint in the manner required by the Constitution.

From this it follows that the impeachment complaint against the Chief Justice violates the constitutional proscription against dual or multiple impeachment proceedings against the same official within one year.

Shortly after the Supreme Court promulgated its judgment, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo spoke for Malacañang. The executive branch, he announced, would submit to the judgment of the high court and enforce it. Sen. Franklin Drilon also announced that the Senate would abide by the Court's resolution of the dispute. Romulo and Drilon rose to the challenge of the moment—like the good statesmen and lawyers that they are. Eventually, the Speaker of the Lower House announced that he was "constrained" to honor the judgment of the Supreme Court. As he said this, he looked pained, harried and bedraggled but it was honorable of him to have conceded, despite the rhetoric in his chamber that would not die down. Congress was not doing the Supreme Court a favor. It was honoring the Rule of Law, for had it chosen to defy the Court there was little—in fact nothing—the Court could have done to enforce its judgment, but that perfidy would also have spelled the demise of law's sovereignty and would have opened the gates of society to adventurism and opportunism!

These are "interesting times"—and Justice Dante Tinga aptly recalls that the phrase in Chinese is ambivalent, but it seems to be the lot—blessing?—of Filipinos to thrive in "interesting times." This piece of jurisprudence is one of the fruit of such times!

Fr. Ranhilio Callangan Aquino is head of the Academic Affairs Office of the Philippine Judicial Academy, Supreme Court of the Philippines.

Rugby fever

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SYDNEY—There's "rugby fever" in the city. And it's not just the residents, known as Sydneysiders, who're showing signs of infestation. More than a million fans have so far bought tickets to the matches, held in different cities across Australia, though the semis and finals will play out in Sydney's Olympic village. Among the rugby fans are supporters of the foreign teams vying in the finals: France, England and New Zealand, with 15,000 Kiwis and 8,000 Brits flying in for the exciting denouement over this weekend and the next.

Still, the battle cry here is "Go Wallabies!," as the home team and defending champions are known, with Sidneysiders making it a point to walk around in the team's colors: yellow and green.

Already, the hotel and travel industry is saying that the Rugby World Cup is second only to the Olympics in terms of attendance and profits. Almost all hotels are offering special "rugby packages" for travelers who've made the journey to Sydney for the exciting finish. The rugby fans are easy to spot: moving about in packs, loud and boisterous and more often than not, clad in T-shirts, hats and accessories proclaiming their loyalty to a team in the top four.

* * *

EMOTIONS are running high. An early-morning talk show host opened Friday's episode by proclaiming: "It's Kiwi Friday! I believe in neighborliness, but this is war!" The Kiwis are, of course, the "All-Blacks" from New Zealand who were to battle the Wallabies for a slot in the finals on Saturday night.

Testy and devoted fans are not above criticizing the home team, though, with many observers questioning recent decisions made by Australia's national team coach.

Even the coach of the England team was moved to protest the hostility of the Aussie fans, wondering why he hears almost constant declarations of "anybody but the English." "Maybe it's got something to do with the way their fans behave," a rugby follower remarked.

Even an otherwise sober and rational scientist like Attila Lorincz, an international authority on HPV who works for Digene, went out of his way to travel to Brisbane to catch the Wales vs England match a day before he was to address the First Asian HPV Summit here. "While I was rooting for Wales," said Lorincz, who is of Hungarian origins but of Irish affinity, "I was glad England won if only because I wanted to leave the stadium alive."

He spoke of one fervid fan who came to watch the game with his face and body painted in England's

colors, but it was the message on the fan's T-shirt that Lorincz identified with: "It's a bloody long way to come for a rugby game!"

But for the passionate rugby fans who're turning this weekend into "the biggest sporting weekend since the Olympics," no world-class game is too far to be part of, if only from the stands.

* * *

COMING from a country where rugby is hardly known, I can't work up the requisite passion or interest, though the Sydneysiders' enthusiasm is quite catching.

From the little I've seen on TV, rugby seems to be a cross between soccer football and American football—but faster and calling for more physical contact between the players than both games. Ball-passing among the swiftly running players is especially exciting to watch, as are the frequent skirmishes and pile-ups.

Why don't we know more about this game? And why isn't it played by Filipinos? From the little I know, it seems like soccer football, a game ideally suited for Filipinos, since height doesn't appear to be a requirement for success, though I would think brawn would be a necessity—for survival.

As other observers have commented, we do seem strangely attached to basketball, where we suck, mainly because even our best and tallest players, at least those with purely Pinoy genes, can't even hope to measure up to the world's best.

It's a fact of life and heredity, and the sooner we realize it and stop living in denial, the sooner we can obsess about sports where we can, as a nation, have at least a fighting chance.

* * *

THERE was an interesting and amusing question called in to a morning TV show where the hosts are expected to help in matters of everyday etiquette.

The question was: My brother-in-law has invited me to dinner on Saturday night, and when I asked if I could watch the rugby game on TV, he seemed put out. What I'd like to know is how can I turn down the invitation without causing a rift in the family.

Some suggestions to the socially-handicapped rugby fan: bring a radio hidden under your clothes with a discreet ear piece, and just keep nodding through dinner; excuse yourself from the table every five minutes and later blame the host for feeding you spoiled food; or brazenly walk straight to the TV set and hope the other guests turn it into a rugby watching event.

It's a dilemma shared by all couples, and not just over rugby. All indications to the contrary, there's more to life than the current sporting season, though you might not know it judging from the obsessions of many adult men.

I guess wives and girlfriends can either resign themselves to having their husbands go AWOL every few months or so, or give these overgrown boys a taste of their own medicine. A Shopping World Cup, anyone?

Vague uneasiness

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

ON AYALA Avenue this week, the nation was treated to a dress rehearsal for Edsa IV. Thousands of Metro Manila's urban poor descended upon the city's most affluent section demanding the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo and of Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. Many brought their children and cooking utensils with them, and prepared for a long siege. The police dispersed them with tear gas at the height of Makati's rush hour after they overstayed their permit to demonstrate.

We may denounce politicians who ride on the poor's resentments and cynically exploit their despair, but there is no way we can avoid acknowledging the scandal of their growing numbers and the gravity of their persistent needs. They may, as we have seen, rent out their grievances for a few pesos and a meal, and join demonstrations without comprehending the messages they shout or the placards they carry. But this does not invalidate their despair. Their sheer presence in the face of so much private wealth is by itself a powerful and destabilizing message.

The unrelenting poverty of the vast masses of our people condemns the whole Philippine state. It mirrors the failure of our social and political institutions to give to them the opportunity to become productive citizens. Their poverty cannot be due to congenital idleness, as some of us are sometimes wont to believe. For they often do well as migrants. Nor can it be explained as the result of wrong values and vicious traits, for aren't these also aspects of our society?

Those of us who claim to see better are quick to pin the blame on our corrupt leaders. Corruption is a huge problem in our society, but it is not the root cause of mass poverty. Inequality is.

This is a time of "vague uneasiness," the sociologist C. Wright Mills says. We know that something is deeply wrong with our society, but we have yet to formulate this "in such ways as to permit the work of reason and the play of sensibility." Mills explains: "Neither the values threatened nor whatever threatens them has been stated; in short they have not been carried to the point of decision."

Which values might these be? What threatens them? I submit that the values we most cherish and feel most threatened at present are: economic security, political stability and growth. The most urgent of these, I believe, is economic security. Too many of our people are without regular incomes that can permit them to raise families with dignity. They are made to compete in a ruthless open market without the necessary resources and skills, and without the safety nets that would allow them to survive emergencies, calamities and wild fluctuations in the economy. We are kinder to the big players. We allow them to collect additional revenue to cover currency fluctuations. When banks get into trouble, the Bangko Sentral lends them billions to keep them going. The national budget reflects our twisted priorities; we allot more money every year for debt repayment than for social services.

Aggravating our people's economic insecurity is the anxiety of dealing with the powerful in a constantly shifting political order. Because of their vulnerability, they are easy targets of mobilizations by the elite, who use them as cannon fodder for their political wars. They live in zones of political conflict and bear the brunt of political upheavals. They often champion the interests of their patrons long after the latter have made peace with their rivals. They have no choice but to remain under the wings of feudal patrons because, under our system, their access to services and the law has to be mediated by people of influence. Unless the powerful learn to live by the Constitution, and to compete in elections without resorting to violence, vote buying and fraud, we cannot expect the poor to prefer programs to personalities.

Young Filipinos, unable to suffer the stagnation that wastes their parents, are rushing to other shores for a chance at growth. They may often end up doing the most menial tasks, but, for them, this is still better than the slow premature decay that awaits them at home. For the reality is, despite its claim to being open and mobile, our society is rigidly dynastic. Far from dismantling inherited hierarchies, our educational system only reproduces the disparities of the system. It is not surprising that many young people from poor families are driven to find their luck in the less rigid interstices of the entertainment industry, where, perchance, a future political career might be formed.

Anyone who can still stand back from the daily vexations that erode our morale will know at once that this social order cannot be sustained in its present form. Unable to rule in the old way, the elite will soon find it necessary to tighten its grip on the nation through greater coercion. Or, accepting the necessity to share power and wealth, it may inaugurate a serious program of reform aimed at rebuilding the structure of opportunity for the masses. The alternative is an escalating war punctuated by increasingly unruly Edsa-style upheavals. Without a credible revolutionary force that can integrate the nation under a new framework, the conflict will tear our society apart indefinitely.

Seen against this background, the attempt to impeach the Chief Justice and the President's call for reconciliation look irrelevant. Even next year's elections seem out of place. The country faces a graver problem. We have to clarify the vague uneasiness hanging over the nation and come to a decision point. Only if we do this will elections make any sense.

* * *

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

TALK of the TOWN

How should media cover threats to security?

HOW media cover threats to security was brought into focus once again when the Airport Security Group assaulted the control tower of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport 2 before dawn on Nov. 8.

The assault resulted in the death of former Air Transportation Office chief Panfilo Villaruel and Navy Lt. Ricardo Catchillar, who both took over the control tower the night before. A total of 12 bullets hit Villaruel. His face from the nose up was blown off. Four bullets were pumped into Catchillar.

All the while, dzBB was airing the explosions and the final moments of Villaruel. The radio station was able to get an exclusive because broadcast journalist Arnold Clavio managed to contact the former ATO chief, who aired his gripes against the government.

People decrying the use of excessive force mention Villaruel's announcement of surrender over the radio. But police officials justified the assault because Villaruel and his aide had endangered commercial flights and the lives of thousands of passengers.

As the only person in contact with the former ATO chief after attempts at negotiation by authorities failed, should Clavio have acted on his own as mediator? It was not his job to be a negotiator.

Without the interview, the public would not have known the complaints of Villaruel against the government. Without Clavio, the Senate may not have called for a probe, which found that authorities skipped standard operating procedures such as conducting paraffin tests on the members of the assault team and ballistic tests on the firearms used by the team.

I did my job

By Arnold Clavio
Broadcast journalist—GMA 7

IT WAS the longest five-minute interview I conducted in my broadcasting career. *Habambuhay ng magiging bahagi ko, propesyonal man o personal, ang nangyaring krisis sa* Naia tower.

The last breath of Capt. Panfilo Villaruel, heard over dz Dobol B during the wee hours of the morning of Nov. 8, was beyond description. Some were moved to tears. Some hid in fear, while others felt anger.

I didn't consider it a scoop. It was an ordinary interview I usually do as an anchor. I was at the right time, at the right place, they say. I didn't know the man personally but I knew him as a government man. Talking to him that morning was just part of my job. Never did I imagine that it would become controversial.

The conversation I had with the late Captain Villaruel was a first in my 16 years in the broadcast industry. It was like someone dying in your arms...helpless...you can't do anything, waiting for his last gasps of life...fading.

Lagi pa rin nasa isip ko ang patuloy na pagtawag sa aking pangalan ni Captain Villaruel, "Ah...nold....Ah...nold...," *habang naghihingalo sa radyo. Isang pagkakataong marapat lamang sana sa kanyang sariling pamilya.*

"Bukit nila ginawa iyon, sumusuko na siya," was the common reaction.

Duty call

If you were given that kind of chance, what would you do?

It was more of a duty call for me. The old man needs someone to talk to ...someone who will listen...someone who will dream with him.

The man is dead. I did my job. Not to forget, divine intervention. I always believe in it because it has always a purpose.

Nakakalungkot isipin na ang kalaban naming network *at ilang mamahayag, sa radyo at diyaryo, ay tila sa akin pa binubunton ang sisi ng pagkamatay ni* Captain Villaruel.

Kung hindi ko raw kausap sa cell phone, *baka nagkaroon pa ng pagkakataon ang negosasyon.*

But during the joint public hearing of the Senate committees on justice and human rights, defense, public order and security, police officials said that the negotiation had bogged down. So while I was talking to Captain Villaruel on radio, the assault was going on.

Sour grapes. Poor loser. I forgive. *Kung hind nariinig ng ating mga kababayan ang nangyari, sa tingin mo ba ang naging kamatayan ni* Captain Villaruel *ay magkakaroon ng saysay?*

Ilang araw lamang ang lumipas, marami na rin ang naging matalino at nagdunung-dunungan. Mas madaling itago ang kapalpakan sa paghahanap ng taong mabubuntunan ng sisi.

The family of Captain Villaruel thanks me...*okey na sa akin yun.*

I ask again, what if there is no recorded interview of the captains' last minute inside the tower? Surely, there would be so many 'storytellers' among our police officials. They will picture themselves as an elite protector of democracy against the threat of terrorism, at the expense of a defenseless old man.

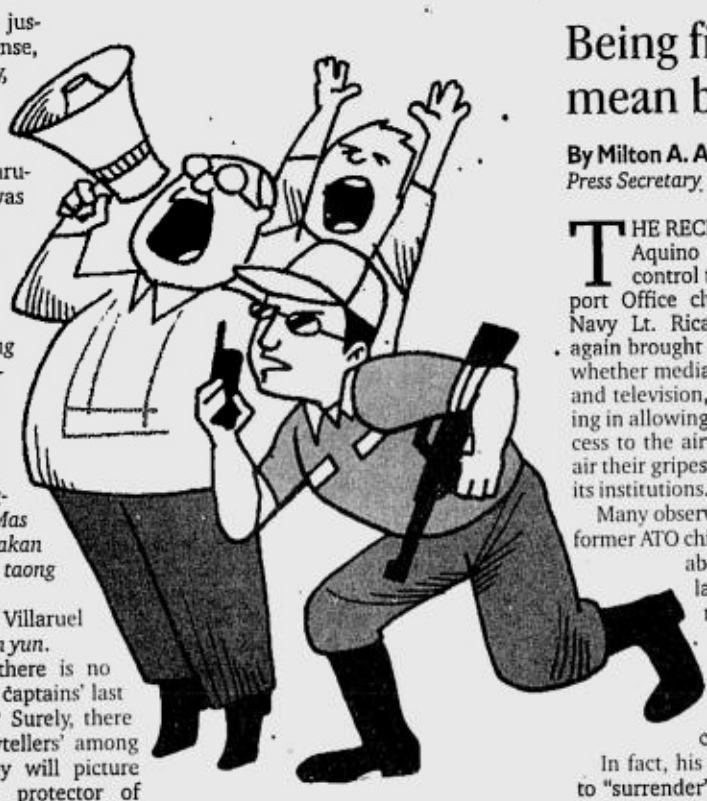
Negotiator

I didn't act as a negotiator. *Hindi ako eksperto. Pero nasaan ang negosyador ng mga oras na iyon?* The authorities should have risen to the occasion while I was interviewing Captain Villaruel. But they decided not to.

We tried to contact officials, but they were not available. The first interview lasted for 18 minutes and the second for only five minutes.

While talking to him off the air, I heard a loud explosion. I asked, "Col. *Ano po iyon? Malakas po?*" He answered, "Arnold, *pinapasok na kami...ime*-murder *na kami dito."*

The take-over of a crucial government property is unacceptable. It is a criminal offense. But was the solution the government chose to retake the tower justifiable? I don't know. Also, we should not put the blame on the members of the assault team. Their action was only based on the information available. So, it is interesting to know if there were lapses in intelligence gathering.



There are concerns that media should not give access to terrorists or coup plotters. *Doon daw nagkakaroon ng problema, ayon sa gobyerno.* A monopoly of ideas?

I am not a propagandist. I am a journalist. I don't believe in labeling people as centrist or communist or rightist or pro or anti (government). They should all be heard. That is democracy in action. Journalists should be objective in giving information. I believe that the truth should not be compromised. It should be exposed, regardless of whoever gets hurt.

Do I need to defend myself as consequences of my action? Nah, the tape speaks for itself. Tragedies like this are inevitable. *Pero dapat naman ay matuto na tayong lahat. Marami ng trahedya ang ating nasaksihan. Natuto na ba tayo?*

May his soul rest in peace so that others' conscience may also rest in peace. Lord, *ikaw na ang bahala!*

Being first doesn't mean being fair

By Milton A. Alingod
Press Secretary

THE RECENT takeover of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport 2's control tower by former Air Transport Office chief Panfilo Villaruel and Navy Lt. Ricardo Catchillar has once again brought to the fore the question of whether media outlets, particularly radio and television, are performing their calling in allowing "live" and unrestricted access to the airwaves to those wishing to air their gripes against the government or its institutions.

Many observers have theorized that the former ATO chief and his aide would probably still be alive today if Villaruel had spent more time negotiating on his demands rather than attending to interviews and inquiries by the broadcast media on his motives for seizing control of the tower.

In fact, his supposed last-minute plan to "surrender" was directed more to the radio anchorman than to the negotiators or the assaulting SWAT team. People will debate for sometime whether the time allotted for negotiation was enough or too short. But one thing such debate will underscore is the role of broadcast media in situations where certain persons have decided to utilize violent and illegal means for even the constitutionally mandated freedom to redress grievances.

Bragging right

The competition between networks should ideally bring about a more deliberate effort to bring out the best type of broadcast coverage that is based on accuracy, fairness and a consideration for the common good. Instead, the deadline for putting out stories by the broadcast organizations appears to have been shortened because of a compelling drive for spontaneity and "live" effect. In short, the network that airs it first claims the bragging right, forgetting that being first does not necessarily mean being accurate and fair. The time to evaluate the live pronouncements or to balance it with another view is lost.

For sure, there have been many instances when one may ask whether the broadcast media have gone beyond its sworn duty to give out information so the public may make their own opinion on issues.

One recalls the periodic releases of audiotapes of the Abu Sayyaf to a favorite station in Mindanao before the eventual recovery of the Sipadan hostages in 2000, or the occasional interviews with NPA commander Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal via his cell phone for his latest one-sided tirades against the government, or even in the guise of "man on the street" surveys where people who are asked a particular question certainly do not possess the competence to give intelligent answers and where they, mostly, speculate.

The broadcast media play a big role in bringing events and issues to immediate public attention. But they would do well, perhaps, to re-examine their priorities in regard to live broadcast of highly charged and oftentimes inflammatory pronouncements.

It may also prove useful to remember that any form of interventionist enterprise on the part of media should be coordinated with authorities when possible. The tragic end to the Naia 2 tower takeover showed that media participation in resolving such incident does not always produce a welcome result. We also recall an earlier incident where a man in a Pasay bus terminal took hostage a boy and where a reporter also figured as negotiator.

In the end, both hostage and hostage-taker were killed. We should learn our lessons from these incidents to make sure they are not repeated in the future.

Crisis management seminar a must

By Chief Supt. Vidal Querol
Region 3 director

How should media behave during a security crisis? I decided to raise this questions in the wake of retired Capt. Panfilo Villaruel's takeover of the airport control tower on Nov. 7. In that incident, broadcast journalist Arnold Clavio was able to interview the former Air Transportation Office chief shortly before he and his bodyguard were killed in a police assault.

Much has been said about how Clavio should have handled the situation. Some say he simply did his job. Others are convinced he should not have "interfered." To settle the debate, may I propose that media personnel undergo a crisis management seminar to prepare them in the event that a suspect establishes contact with them.

I would like to make it clear, though, that I'm not laying the blame on anybody from the media, more so, on Clavio.

While the seminar may not provide them the necessary skills in negotiation, it will enlighten them as to how they must act once communication with a suspect is established. The seminar is one forum for the exchange of ideas and the formulation of standard operating procedures among media people, police, security forces, and other key players in crisis management.

The establishment of communication with the suspect is a very crucial factor in a crisis situation which must be handled by trained persons to attain a successful and peaceful resolution. Honest intention to help on the part of the media, sometimes, is not enough if it is not executed with skill and competence. Trained negotiators must be quickly sought once communication with the suspect is established.

BBC guidelines on covering threats to security

By the British Broadcasting Corp.

When reporting terrorism, the BBC's role is to tell the truth—quickly, accurately, fully, responsibly and avoiding speculation. If people are to trust our reporting we must be seen to be independent as well as well-informed. The provisions in this section apply to our reporting of all terrorism.

We must not adopt terrorist language as though it were our own. Terrorist groups use military and judicial terms to give themselves status. If we report their use of words like "volunteer," "execute," "liberate," "court martial" and so on, we should attribute them.

Reporting terrorist violence is an area which particularly tests our international services. Our credibility is severely undermined if international audiences detect a bias for or against any of those involved. Neutral language is key: even the word "terrorist" can appear judgmental in parts of the world where there is no clear consensus about the legitimacy of militant political groups.

Interviews

The BBC interviews active terrorists only on occasions where we believe the public interest in doing so outweighs the outrage and offence such interviews are likely to cause our audiences. Any proposal to approach a terrorist or terrorist organization for an interview must have the support of the Head of Department or Commissioning Executive and must be referred in advance to Controller Editorial Policy for approval.

From time to time paramilitary and terrorist groups stage "public appearances," usually to try to get publicity. BBC people should never agree to attend "staged" events without reference to Head of Department, Commissioning Executives or Heads of Region in World Service.

Individuals at risk

We do not normally report terrorist threats against named individuals unless the threats have produced a serious and evident effect (such as the cancellation of a public appearance).

We should be careful when filming the homes of people whose position clearly puts them at risk (politicians, military people, judges etc.). We must try not to give details which might aid a terrorist attack. This includes exact locations, detailed plans, aerial pictures, readable shots of vehicle number plates and so on. We should never reveal details of anti-terrorist devices.

We must take care not to identify as possible targets for a terrorist attack people who would otherwise not be in danger. This may mean, for instance, withholding the identity of individuals, whether civilian or otherwise, withholding the names of firms undertaking work of military establishments or withholding the names of animal laboratories, if we have reason to believe that revealing them might put them at increased risk.

Hostages

Cases of kidnapping in England and Wales are covered by an agreement between the news organizations and the Association of Chief Police Officers. The BBC will apply its provisions throughout the United Kingdom. When human life is at stake as a result of a kidnapping the police force dealing with the matter can ask for a complete news black-out. The procedure for such requests is carefully laid down and all editors of BBC news programmes should keep a copy of the document that describes the procedure.

In protracted incidents, and where hostages are involved, broadcasters must be aware of the danger that anything they say on-air may be overheard by the perpetrators. Our reporting must be truthful and strictly factual. We must not speculate about what has happened or what may happen. We must listen to advice from the police and other authorities about anything which, if reported, could exacerbate the situation. Occasionally they will ask broadcasting organizations to withhold or even to include some item of information. We would normally comply with a reasonable request, but we would never knowingly broadcast something that was untrue. *(Excerpts from BBC's Producer's Guidelines)*

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INDIGENOUS ROMEO GACAD/AFP

Ifugao tribesman Tomas Guinyang plays a bamboo flute beside tribeswoman Bugan Agudong in Banaue. The tribe elders, descendants of the builders of the rice terraces, pass their ancient history and culture in captivating melodic chant and dances.

Benguet expects ₱174M from mining

BAGUIO CITY—Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas said Benguet will finally receive P174 million in mining shares from the national government covering 2002 to 2003, the biggest tax collectible mining shares for the province.

Molintas said once the remittance papers are prepared, the collectibles will be ready for cash release.

"We just hope that this will be released under the term of President Macapagal-Arroyo," he told reporters during a forum here.

Molintas said national taxation laws failed to disburse Benguet's equal share from these revenues and the province has been lobbying for the tax to be remitted directly to the host province.

He said it was unfortunate that the remittance of mining shares from 1993 to 1999 were not yet paid because the guidelines under the local government code on taxation were issued later.

These years were not covered by the General Appropriations Act, Molintas added.

He said they have yet to ascertain the collectibles from 1993 to 1999, adding that before 1993, only 20 percent of the total mining shares were remitted to the province.

The P174 million mining share is due for the mining towns of Itogon, Mankayan and Tuba.

These towns, according to Molintas, have been lobbying the national government for their share.

But among these towns, Tuba and Mankayan, both hosts to mining companies such as Philex Mining Corp. and Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp., had agreed to a 50-50 share of the remittance despite boundary disputes. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

'Weng' devastation forces gov to ask for help

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Northern Samar Gov. Raul Daza has asked the national government for assistance for his province ravaged on Thursday by tropical storm Weng.

The governor said that the damage to infrastructure and agriculture and fisheries products wrought by Weng had been initially placed at P73 million.

The typhoon also displaced some 16,525 families or 99,150 persons.

Daza said that based on initial reports gathered by the provincial disaster coordinating council, damage to infrastructure involving national and provincial roads and bridges reached more than P71.9 million while damage to the fisheries and agriculture sectors was placed at P1.896 million.

Daza added that a total 31,397 houses were either destroyed or suffered damages at the height of the storm.

Majority of the affected families came from the towns of Lope de Vega, Mondragon and Catarman. Northern Samar has 24 municipalities.

The displaced families were temporarily sheltered in different public schools and multi-purpose centers in the affected towns, Daza said.

The governor said power has yet to be restored in many parts of the province, with the exception of the provincial capital of Catarman that got back its electricity early Saturday morning.

Many electric poles of the Northern Samar Electric Cooperative (Norsamelco) were toppled down by strong winds and heavy rains at the height of the storm on Thursday night.

"We just hope that the national government will help us as we try to recover from the typhoon," Daza said.

Vice Gov. Guido Lavin said he would recommend to the governor a move to place the province under a state of calamity to allow the provincial government to use its calamity fund to assist the areas that suffered damages as a result of the storm.

Meantime, the more than 1,244 passengers stranded in Allen town were allowed by the Philippine Coast Guard to cross to Matnog, Sorsogon since Friday night due to improved weather conditions.

The passengers, who were stranded since Thursday in the two seaports of Allen—the Look and Dapdap seaports—were all bound for Metro Manila.

At least four people were killed at the height of the typhoon. They died of electrocution.

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DEAN RICARDO L. SADAC
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Night food frenzy on Ramadan jacks up prices

COTABATO CITY—With all its physical and spiritual benefits, the Ramadan fasting season has taken its toll on the community's economic life, particularly in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

There are more bread loaves, fruits, meat and fish than one usually sees in the market during Ramadan. But one sees, too, prices going up by as much as 40 percent, with fruits gaining a higher demand from Muslims who consume plenty of them at nighttime.

Bangsamoro civil society groups had to introduce the Malay tradition of *Pasal Malam* (night market) in Cotabato City because very few people do their marketing chores at daytime.

But this, market goers say, also indicate that there is more than enough supply at any given time in the wet markets, and that prices have gone up.

The Department of Trade and Industry said the situation is beyond its control because in addition to increased volume of supply on Ramadan, public places are also flooded by unscrupulous vendors, a kind of commercial networking that some traders create to be able to distribute their products for a commission scheme and to evade sales taxes.

Unregistered peddlers usually start the price shooting up because of the commissioning scheme. The rest would have no option but follow suit.

"Unfortunately, we don't have the police power to get them (illegal vendors) off the street sidewalks," said DTI regional director Ibrahim Guiamadel.

Small and seasonal bakeries on makeshift stalls sprawl on street sides, putting up hard and hurting competition on conventional businesspersons in the trade, who in turn get manipulated by their competitors' on-and-off existence.

Fruit plantation owners organize a network of vendors for major market places to sell their product on consignment and commission basis.

It is also among the commissioning fruit vendors that one finds cheating.

Nash Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Lantern fest seeks to ease feuds, fears

A SAMPLE from previous lantern festivals of what's in store for visitors at this year's contest for lantern makers. PDI FILE

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Seeking to end this year of coup jitters, conflicts and controversies with bright hopes, this Christmas capital has readied nine events that showcase the biggest and most colorful lanterns as well as what may yet be the tallest Christmas tree in the Philippines.

Mayor Rey Aquino said the Robinsons Starmills Pampanga is lighting up on Dec. 7 a 110-foot high Christmas tree adorned with holiday trimmings.

Last year, Starmills created the Pinoy version of Walt Disney's famous character Mickey Mouse. The main frame measured 26.8 meters (88 feet) in diameter, while the two others that were the ears spanned five meters (17 feet) each. It has yet to enter the Guinness Book of World Records.

The Dec. 7 activity will signal the start of the annual Giant Lantern Festival (Ligligan Parul) and the launch of the Visit San Fernando Year 2004.

The city government is leading a motorcade of mammoth lanterns around the business and poblacion area, the city's remaining Hispanic district.

Also on the same day, the city government is unveiling the Fernandino monument, a 30-foot bronze shrine paying tribute to the triumph of San Fernando residents in rising above the Mt. Pinatubo disaster, Aquino said.

The unveiling is made a month ahead of the 250th founding anniversary of this Pampanga's capital city.

On Dec. 17, elementary and high school students in the city's public and private schools will parade on the streets their lanterns made of recycled and indigenous materials. Drum and lyre bands are competing on the same day.

Nighttime is for the world renowned Ligligan Parul. Ten giant lanterns crafted from the villages and,gathered at the parking lot of the SM City Pampanga take turns "dancing."

From Dec. 21 to 22, the giant lanterns will "perform" at the Hilaga, the erstwhile Philippine Christmas Village. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Trader's son held for drugs

DUMAGUETE CITY—A 15-year-old son of a prominent Filipino-Chinese businessman here and seven others, five of them also minors, were arrested by authorities in a series of raids in three houses suspected to be drug dens in Sitio Laguna, Barangay Looc, this city, on Friday.

Supt. Constantino Barot Jr., the city's police director, said that the teenage boy, a high school student, was arrested along with the occupants of the houses who were believed to be drug pushers. Also arrested were two other high school students, a college student and two out-of-school youths.

Police found from the 15-year-old boy's wallet a deck of suspected methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu.

Except for the businessman's son and two suspected drug peddlers, the five minors nabbed in the raid were later freed for lack of evidence. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
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Impeachment fallout in the South

EDITOR'S Note: Of the 95 members of the House of Representatives who endorsed the impeachment case against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., 21 are from Mindanao.

They stood their ground, but lost after the Supreme Court declared that the impeachment case was unconstitutional.

In the historic Nov. 10 session of the House of Representatives, which lasted until dawn the next day, these "honorable men and women" were given three minutes to explain their vote on whether to overrule Speaker Jose de Venecia's decision to abide by the Supreme Court's ruling. There, they also lost with only 77 votes against 115.

After losing the battles (if indeed they have given up the fight), what now?

Let's hear from the people of Mindanao:

VERBATIM

Prof. Patricia Isabel Alcantara
Davao City
THINKING about what I should do to them is already a waste of time. And I would not waste my time and effort to even consider them come elections day. They have proven just how low they go in their attempt to put a good man down. Heck, they're not even halfway as decent as him.

Marcelo Macasling
Security guard
Butuan City
MY WORDS won't matter anyway because I'm a poor man. Let us leave that matter to the rich and powerful.

Prof. Estrella Cantallopez
Peace Education program officer,
Peace Center, Notre Dame University
Cotabato City
THEY saw an error. They want that error corrected. A democratic process has taken off. A decision has been cast. Those who sought the impeachment were that assertive because they believe democracy is alive in this country. They deserve a medal of valor.

Alfredo Jimenez
Private Prosecutor
Zamboanga City
THEY exercised their prerogative as members of the House of Representatives. They can support an impeachment complaint, so if Zamboanga Rep. Celso Lobregat and the other representatives were pro-impeachment, they acted within the parameters of their prerogative as members of the House of Representative, specifically for Lobregat, if he was not motivated by any ulterior reasons.

However, they were ill-advised because the Constitution clearly and expressly provided that only one impeachment complaint should be filed in a year or in a period of one year against any impeachable official.

I also don't blame them directly because not all of them are lawyers. They should have studied the Constitution and should have sought the advice of good lawyers to tell them that clearly, the move was unconstitutional.

Dr. Raul Ting
Volunteer, Tabang Mindanao
Pikit, North Cotabato
LET'S stop giving them space in the news. Obviously, their actions and pronouncements remain as devious as the person behind it. Hopefully, the people from their districts could initiate recall elections against them if it is still possible.

Rose Latonio
Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Program staff,
Diocese of Kidapawan
Kidapawan City
THEIR spending of the CDF (Countrywide Development Fund) should be dug out, too. It's not heroic spending their youthful years for reasons widely used by the *trapos* (traditional politicians) as dirty tactics. They should work for free education and other social services instead and not create political crises.

Lawyer Luz Ramos
General Santos City
IT'S time for voters to check whether their representatives have the quality to serve in the Lower House. If not, voters should replace the incumbent with qualified and brilliant minds to hold a position of such importance. *Bawal ang tanga* sa House of Representatives.

Jon Joaquin
Business Page editor
Mindanao Daily Mirror
Davao City
I AM pro-Constitution. The elections will take care of the pro-impeachment "Tonggress-men."

Prof. Jennifer Sinco
Department of Humanities
University of Southern Mindanao
DISGUSTING is a tame word to describe what they did. I suggest we forget them on elections day, forget them forever. Make sure that they fade into obscurity. The nerve.

Dennis Estacio
STARCM staff
Kidapawan City
FATHER, forgive them for they do not know what they have done.

Sister Susan Bolanio, OND
Executive director,
Justice and Peace Desk
Diocese of Marbel
Koronadal City
I RESPECT their position and I'm sure they were aware of the sentiments of their constituents and hence, aware of the implications in their political career.

Lorenzo Mariano
Guidance Counselor
Cagayan de Oro City
THEY should be disbarred for that's the sanction for their ignorance of the law. Those congressmen, who said that if they did not push through with the impeachment it would give a wrong signal to the people, they were probably more afraid of their skin than anything else because they were not doing their job of making the voice of the people heard in Congress. They were all doing what they wanted to do. I would like to roast them all to gridiron which they truly deserve.

Roni de Asis
Office of the City Mayor
Cotabato City
MEMBERS of the House of Representatives who have initiated the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. should have been supported because theirs was a noble cause. We should support efforts like that in the future to erase the cloud of doubt how the JDF was spent.

Maria Cristina Mercado-dela Fuente
Teacher
Cagayan de Oro City
IBASURA sila (Dump them). They should know what they are doing. Shame on them. I regret voting for Representative Jaraula. This time I will not vote for him.

Frankie del Rosario
Activist
Cotabato City
THE ISSUE doesn't equate between the pro- and anti-Davide. The people must know that behind Davide's impeachment is the bloc of GMA-JDV-Cojuangco. They have been maneuvering congress to cover the real issues: Oust GMA, Coco levy and Cha-cha (Charter change)."

Cong Corrales
Chair, Anak-Pawis
Cagayan de Oro City
THEY should be investigated as to their motives and their connection to unseen hands behind their plot to instigate chaos and anarchy.

Alexander Sese
Anakbayan
Maguindanao
A SIMILAR case should be filed against all congressmen to investigate how they spent their CDF and how much they have pocketed. The so-called "brat pack" should be made to explain how they spent peoples' money.

The President should have asked these lawmakers: "He who has no sin and is not corrupt in anyway, cast the first stone on Davide."

Gathered by Franklin M. Caliguid, Jeffrey M. Tupas, Julie S. Alipala, Edwin O. Fernandez, Grace Cantal-Albasin, Aquiles Z. Zonio and Ayan C. Mellejor

Pro-impeachment (South Camp)

DARLENE Antonino-Custodio (South Cotabato-General Santos City)
Augusto Baculio (Misamis Oriental)
Alipio Badelles (Lanao del Norte)
Leovigildo Banaag (Agusan del Norte)
Claude Bautista (Davao del Sur)
Douglas Cagas (Davao del Sur)
Cecilia Jalosjos-Carreon (Zamboanga del Norte)
Didagen Dilangalen (Maguindanao)
Jesnar Falcon (Surigao del Sur)
Gregorio Ipong (North Cotabato)
Soraya Jaafar (Tawi-Tawi)
Constantino Jaraula (Cagayan de Oro)
Celso Lobregat (Zamboanga City)
Ruy Elias Lopez (Davao City)
Benasing Macarambon Jr. (Lanao del Sur)
Angelo Montilla (Sultan Kudarat)
Arthur Pingoy Jr. (South Cotabato)
Rodolfo Plaza (Agusan del Sur)
Jurdin Jesus Romualdo (Camiguin)
Emmylou Taliño-Santos (North Cotabato)
Juan Miguel Zubiri (Bukidnon).

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Masbate bishop raises fears on ₱340-M loan

THE BISHOP of Masbate province raised fears on a P340-million loan which the provincial government is trying to get from the Land Bank of the Philippines.

In a Nov. 3 letter to Masbate Gov. Antonio Kho, Bishop Joel Baylon of the Diocese of Masbate said he has doubts whether the loan would truly benefit the province.

"I honestly believe that there are several difficulties in this loan . . . which are reasons enough to make said loan open to question," Baylon said in his letter to Kho.

"First, the way this loan is conceived alone causes great anxiety," the bishop wrote. "As I am told, P79 million will be taken out of the P80 million Internal Revenue Allotment to pay for this loan annually."

"That means only P8 million will be left for running and implementation of other projects and concerns of the local government," Baylon said.

"How is that possible? Can this insignificant amount be sufficient to address the other needs and programs for the province?"

The provincial government planned to use the loan for farm-to-market roads but the bishop expressed doubts it was a wise purpose for the loan.

Herminio Valdemoro, provincial administrator, defended the loan saying P130 million of it would be for heavy equipment, P11 million for medical supplies and the rest for other infrastructure.

Valdemoro told INQUIRER the loan was made possible by an agreement between the League of Governors and the LBP allowing governors to borrow money from the LBP.

He said Masbate has no loan yet and was capable of borrowing up to P491 million.

But the bishop said although the roads would greatly benefit farmers, he was questioning why portions of the loan would be used to buy heavy equipment when these could be provided by the DPWH "because it is their proper task to build roads."

"I therefore beg your honor not to pursue this plan," wrote the bishop to Kho.

PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

ANTITERROR REUTERS

Filipino soldiers take part in Talon Vision, the latest in a series of military exercises with US troops designed to improve the Philippine military's antiterror capabilities. The latest war games were held in Capas, Tarlac.

ROUNDUP

Missing American

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Police on Monday joined the search for a retired American serviceman reported to have been missing since Oct. 13 in Subic, Zambales. Police flashed the alarm for Rolando Farrales, 51, on the request of his wife, Judge Josefina Farrales of Iba town. The American was diagnosed by the United States Veterans Affairs Office as suffering from depression disorder, a report said. He was last seen in the house of Judge Farrales' brother-in-law at Barangay Matain in Subic.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Village chief killed

STA. LUCIA, Ilocos Sur—A village chief in this town was gunned down in Barangay Damacuag last week, police said. Damacuag barangay captain Anaas Halican, 43, was on his way home when he was shot by a lone gunman. Halican came from the house of the village treasurer to sign a payroll when he was attacked. He died of two bullet wounds in the head and back. Police found five shells of 9 mm pistol bullets at the crime scene.

Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

7 nabbed for robbery

SUYO, Ilocos Sur—Police arrested seven men at a checkpoint in Barangay Baringcucurong here on Wednesday morning, hours after they allegedly robbed a cooperative office. Reports said the suspects took P512,000 cash and P198,000 worth of checks from the Suyo Credit Cooperative Inc. They reportedly broke into the cooperative's office at about 11 p.m. Tuesday by destroying the front door's padlock. The suspects saw guard Vlademir Anaen inside the office, and disarmed and tied him. Despite suffering a cut in the head, Anaen freed himself and went to a nearby convent to call for help.

Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Rice trader missing

CAMP GEN. ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—A rice trader in Guiguinto town was believed abducted and robbed last Tuesday. Relatives of Jomar Landayan, 33, said he was carrying P800,000 when he was abducted. Anicia Landayan, the businessman's mother, said her son left their stall in Guiguinto after receiving a telephone call. The victim's mother said they have not heard from him since.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Struck by lightning

BINMALEY, Pangasinan—Seven people were struck by lightning while visiting their dead or cleaning tombs at the municipal cemetery here on Nov. 1. Police said the victims were not directly hit by lightning but electrical shock rendered them unconscious. The victims, Leonarda Escocio, 57; Larry Ferrer, 17; Larry Sy, 22; Isagani Garcia, 32, and his son Rodrigo, 11; Vangie Camacho and Rudy Escocio were discharged from hospitals in Lingayen town and Dagupan City late afternoon Saturday. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Grenade found

SANTA, Ilocos Sur—Armed men threw a grenade at the showroom of a government-run food processing plant here last week. The grenade, however, did not explode but broke the glass panel of the Multi-Line Food Processing Plant (MLFPP) in Barangay Mabilbila. Police said Perfecto Cabrales, 46, MLFPP security guard, reported the incident to policemen on Sunday. Police found rocks and a hand grenade inside the showroom.

Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

4 killed in mishap

DAVAO CITY—Four persons were killed while seven others were injured when a passenger bus bumped the L-300 van they were riding in on Km 78, Barangay Dolo in Bansalan, Davao del Sur last week. Killed on the spot were Shirley Suizo, 53, and Jomar Nebreso, 18, both of Matanao, Davao del Sur. Pilar Recoso and a still unidentified male victim died while being treated at the Davao del Sur provincial hospital in Digos City.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT is exactly 552 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

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GMA sets terms for reconciliation

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday spelled out the terms of the "total reconciliation" that she has offered to all groups and individuals fighting the government.

"First, there must be a desire on both sides to reconcile. Second, there must be some acknowledgment of wrongdoing, in some way or other. That acknowledgment must be in a way that preserves the dignity of the one doing the acknowledging. And third, there must be some retribution. That is the kind of reconciliation we are seeking," she said in a speech before the 6th Women Playwrights International Conference in Malacañang.

A Palace statement said the President exchanged views on the reconciliation plan with women playwrights from 30 countries during a dialogue hosted by International Theatre Institute chair Cecile Guidote-Alvarez. *(See photo on Page A2.)*

She said the country needed to reconcile with communist rebels, Muslim secessionists and the followers of ousted ex-President Estrada.

Ms Macapagal said there are ongoing peace efforts with the Communist Party of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front with the help of the governments of Norway and Malaysia.

She said she was being guided by the Church on how to go about achieving a principled reconciliation with the Edsa III forces of Estrada.

The President said her government continues to attend to Estrada's supporters.

"It does not matter if they were in Edsa II when they made me President or in Edsa III when they tried to unseat me. Let's be together and let's work to uplift our lives and the country," she said.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Malacañang has found merit in the proposal made by Foreign Secretary Blas Ople that leaders of all anti-government forces join in a retreat to reflect on the principles and the necessity of reconciliation.

"Why don't our leaders come together for a one-day or half-day retreat to discuss the general principles? From there we could go into details," Bunye told dzBB radio, quoting Foreign Secretary Blas Ople's suggestion.

The President again looked to God for intervention after both her allies and opponents expressed skepticism or rejection of her proposal.

Attending a "Jesus Saves Crusade" prayer rally at the Rizal Park on a stormy Friday night, the President urged the people to help her pray to God to save the country from plotters and the rejectionists of her plan.

"Jesus saves the Filipino people from sin and evil. Jesus saves the Filipino people from those who want to destroy our democracy. Jesus saves the Filipino people from those who do not [accept] reconciliation," she said.

As she did at an earlier prayer rally in Malacañang, the President let herself be soaked by the rain as her way of making common cause with the members of the charismatic group. *Juliet Labog-Javellana and Cynthia Balana*

RP's historic house in Tokyo to be torn down next month

From page A1

square meters, and which currently serves as the ambassador's official residence. The development would involve demolition of the current structure to make way for a new edifice.

Not too many people are aware of the historical value of this particular building. It is important to bring this matter to light, so as to prevent the possible destruction of a valuable icon.

The Fujimi-Kudan building is a Castillian-Iberian-inspired structure built in 1934 using special tiles and other rare materials. Until 1944, it served as the residence of Baron Zenjiro Yasuda, founder of the Yasuda *zaibatsu* (powerful business clan) and the Fuji group.

John Lennon's widow Yoko Ono, a member of the Yasuda clan, was born and grew up in this building.

During World War II, President Jose P. Laurel bought the property for P20,000 on behalf of the Philippine government. The money was advanced from Mrs. Laurel's personal account since the wartime government had trouble sourcing funds for the purchase. The ambassador at that time was Jorge Vargas.

When the last of the Japanese prisoners of war (POWs) interned in Muntinlupa were repatriated to Japan, cherry blossom trees were planted around the house to commemorate the reconciliatory event.

Awarding of the contract to the winning bidder is scheduled on Dec. 7, just a few days before the enforcement of the six-month election ban on government contracts.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected in Tokyo to attend the Asean-Japan summit set Dec. 10 to 13. Considering that the structure is a continuing symbol of a shared heritage between the Philippines and Japan, a decision to tear it down could overshadow the significance of Ms Macapagal's visit.

President Diosdado Macapagal stayed in this house in 1964 when he attended a Tokyo meeting of Maphilindo (Malaysia, Philippines, and Indonesia, precursor of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or Asean).

Contract-awarding

Demolishing the Fujimi-Kudan structure would significantly diminish the prestige of future ambassadors to Japan, who might then be relegated to living quarters and surroundings less illustrious then those of other Asean envoys. The Philippine-Japan Society headed by Francis Laurel, and former Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco, have been in the forefront of a campaign to preserve this valuable heritage.

RP Showcase

In our foreign service, the ambassador's residence often serves as a showcase of the Philippines.

One of the more tangible contributions of my late father, Modesto Farolan, during his 10-year stint as Philippine ambassador to Indonesia from 1968 to 1978, was the purchase of two pieces of property in the capital city of Jakarta along what was then known as Embassy Row. One served as the official residence of the ambassador while the other became the chancery. Both were located along Imam Bonjol, a beautiful tree-lined boulevard in the Menteng District.

When I arrived in Indonesia in 1987, succeeding Ambassador Manuel Yan, it felt a bit like a homecoming for my family, as we had visited my parents a number of times during their stay in that country. Many of the trees around the house had been planted by my father, for whom gardening was a hobby.

The two pieces of property still belong to the Philippine government, and are among the oldest and most valuable assets that we have in Indonesia, spanning the terms of Sukarno, Suharto, Habibie and now, Megawati. Unfortunately, in August 2000, the front of the embassy was damaged during a terrorist attack, which also resulted in serious injuries to the ambassador, Leonides Caday.

House for ma dream of DH killed in Saudi

From page A1

old house last July. They have since stayed with the family of Elena's younger brother, Fred Nuez.

Village isolated

Although Lullutan is only eight kilometers from the town proper, it has been virtually isolated since 1991, when another typhoon wrecked the single connecting bridge to Ilagan.

Ronalyn described her sister as "thoughtful, caring, and kind." She said Reylin had gone abroad to "pursue simple dreams."

Rose Nuez, a cousin-in-law, said they learned of the tragedy only five days after the blast through Reylin's friend Merlyn, also a domestic helper in Riyadh. "Merlyn and her employer went to identify the body at the morgue," Rose said.

Last phone call

She recounted Reylin's last telephone conversation with the family on Oct. 12: "She was very happy. She told us she couldn't wait to see and kiss her mother."

Despite her family's poverty, Reylin had taken up computer science units at the St. Ferdinand College (SFC) in Ilagan. With a scholarship grant from Mayor Delfinito Albano, she transferred to the Isabela State University and enrolled in Education. Reylin had stayed with the Albanos since she was in high school, taking care of the mayor's son Emmanuel. But she quit studying after two years.

When her father Herman, a farmer-carpenter, died in 1998, Reylin—although she was the third child—became the breadwinner.

Don't prolong agony

In 2002, she left for Saudi to work as a maid for $200 (P11,000) monthly. A part of her earnings went to the schooling of her brother Ramon, who is studying criminology at SFC. He is graduating in March next year.

Albano accompanied Elena to the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration last Friday to inquire about the repatriation plans for Reylin's remains.

The mayor said the body was expected in two weeks, but that he hoped it would be sooner. "We should not prolong this agony," he said.

Two 'anti-GMA, anti-coup' groups ...

From page A1

Reaching out

For some time now, the Edsa II forces have been meeting to map out plans to put an end to what they said was a "corrupt and inept" Macapagal administration. Attempts had also been made to reach out to the Estrada loyalist groups, or the so called Edsa III group.

Breakup of Edsa II forces

But the holding of two separate people's summits indicate a breakup within the Edsa II forces.

"We are anti GMA, anti-coup and anti-elite," Dalizo told the INQUIRER.

Widespread

Saycon said the "widespread disenchantment in the military" is pushing the country to a "danger zone."

He said the Oakwood mutiny, which was led by young military officers, and the takeover of the airport control tower by Capt. Panfilo Villaruel, show that the "disenchantment" has affected the young and old officers.

Retired officers

He admitted, too, that retired military officers who have regularly been attending Copa meetings have been "talking" to military unit commanders "precisely because of their disenchantment with the situation."

Dalizo said they opted not to attend the Copa-initiated people's congress "because we are not clear about what they really want. We still have to know their plans. (But)we are not closing an alliance with them," he said.

Possible alliance

Several left-leaning groups have also been meeting with Copa to explore a possible "tactical alliance."

Sanlakas, which has an "operational alliance" with the pro-Estrada People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP) also tried to link up with Copa.

Copa not in Ayala rally

Arnold Obina, spokesperson of PMAP, denied that Copa had joined the Nov. 12 rally on Ayala Ave., Makati, last Wednesday. But he said neither is the PMAP planning to join the left-leaning people's summit on Tuesday.

"While we have a common analysis of the situation, we have reservations with some Akbayan members who have become PGMA apologists," Obina said in a telephone interview.

He said the PMAP has a list of activities "on the drawing board."

Outstanding midwife hosts 'buntis' parties

From page A1

mond award from the Well-Family Midwife Clinic Partnerships Foundation Inc. (WFPI) for excellence in leadership.

Alojado's clinic-residence at NHA Bangkal is one of 230 Well-Family Midwife Clinics (WFMC) given assistance by the United States Agency for International Development (Usaid) to give affordable maternal and child care in the country.

It is also one of only 16 birthing centers accredited by PhilHealth.

10 babies a month

Alojado took pains that her clinic would meet the standards of the Department of Health: it has about 30 square meters of space, two beds, complete birthing apparatus, oxygen and other emergency equipment.

Every month, Alojado delivers at least 10 babies for a minimal fee of P3,000, about 10 percent the cost in local hospitals for the same normal delivery.

Parents also come to her clinic for prenatal advice and their children's immunization.

"I really want families to have good quality service. Everyone deserves it, even the poor. But the problem is they could not afford to go to the hospitals and they do not want to just rely on the health centers because it's already catering to so many people," Alojado said.

Eye-opening

Alojado, 46, first worked as a midwife at the Davao Doctors Hospital for 10 years. She quit to have children.

She later went to work for the Davao City health office. Her job was to go around the city to distribute family planning supplies to local health centers. Sometimes, she also assisted in the immunization of children.

But her work usually extended beyond office hours. After work, she would find mothers waiting for her outside her house, seeking prenatal advice and requesting a checkup.

Alojado could not bear to turn the mothers away. Bone-tired from work, she would still attend to them. In return, the appreciative mothers would give her P10.

"It was an eye-opener for me," Alojado says.

Sensing the need for affordable maternal and child care in her community, she decided to quit her job at the city health office and put up a small clinic in her house.

Roofless clinic

Her husband—a policeman—and her father-in-law got a P100,000 loan to support her endeavor.

Inch-by-inch, her small home was renovated.

But even before the construction could be finished, the mothers came.

Alojado recalls how she sometimes had to deliver babies in her still-roofless and windowless clinic just to make sure the poor mothers would be safe.

"There was only one bed and my apparatus. But what could you do, the babies were coming," an amused Alojado recalled.

'Manghihilot' connection

When the birthing center was finally constructed in 1993, Alojado started establishing connections with the *manghihilots* in the community.

She would invited them over to her house during weekends and would share with them her experiences and training as a midwife.

In turn, the local birth attendants would tell her the deliveries they had for the week, which she would then document and submit to the city health office so that the children could be given birth certificates. She also taught the documentation process to the *manghihilots* so they could do it themselves once they deliver a baby.

'Buntis' parties

Alojado also held "*buntis* parties" in the clinic.

She gave incentives to *manghihilots* who could bring the most number of pregnant women. She used these informal gatherings to give pregnant women advice on prenatal and postnatal care.

Helping each other

"Contrary to what people think, I did not seek to take patients from (the birthing attendants). I merely shared with them proper information on birthing, that's why we clicked. We helped each other.

"Eventually, they developed the initiative to refer to skilled health workers the cases which they realized were beyond their capability," Alojado said.

As a result of their close ties, she was frequently invited to lecture before the Davao Association of Trained Birth Attendants (Datba), now a significant ally in providing health care to mothers in the community.

Increased awareness

In time, Alojado allowed the *manghihilots* to help in her clinic for their training and livelihood.

Her close relationship with the *manghihilots* has helped reduce the number of illegal birthing centers in Davao City and raised the awareness of parents on maternal and child care.

Immunization rates among Davao children went up as Alojado's contacts among the *manghihilots* convinced parents living in hard-to-reach areas about the importance of vaccination.

"When I started out, I did not expect to get anything much, but I really believed that I would grow with this community," Alojado says.

Further training

Alojado has received further training on midwifery and entrepreneurship from the Usaid and the Boston-based JSI Research and Training Institute.

Last year, she was invited to deliver a lecture in India where she shared her wealth of experiences she had learned right at her doorstep.

Take a bow, JDV

From page A1

"The greatest crisis of my political leadership has also brought the greatest recognition," said the man derided for years as the quintessential *trapo* (traditional politician).

The insults plumbed new depths during the two-week impasse between the Supreme Court and the House of Representatives over the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. by a small but powerful group in the chamber.

Interviewed soon after that fateful Monday when he heroically pulled the nation from the brink, the Speaker beamed with vigor and pride. Gone was the woeful countenance and the signs of a heavy heart and many sleepless nights of that critical fortnight.

"Many have told me that I already have fame and wealth. But now I have the final piece that completes the package: recognition and gratitude from the nation, as the INQUIRER put it," he said.

De Venecia admits to being hurt by the barrage of insults from an "unfair" media which ridiculed him both as a public official and a private individual during the highly charged debate.

Caricatures

He recalled how caricatures in the newspapers' opinion pages made him out to be a madman intent on destroying the nation.

He did not even sign the impeachment complaint, he protested.

He now says his efforts "to bring the crisis to a principled end" had been misconstrued.

He said the crisis was above the interest of one man or one party, and it was "to the best interest of the Filipino people that we resolve it peacefully."

Indeed, making enemies is the last thing that the broker of "sunshine coalitions" would venture into.

Consensus builder

"I am a consensus and coalition-builder, not a destroyer of coalitions. I believe in consultations," he said.

De Venecia said he treats adversities as challenges that need to be met with creative solutions. He claims to lead by taking risks and to pursue his visions "with audacity."

That he has succeeded because of those outstanding personal qualities cannot be denied. Twice elected Speaker of the House during the Ramos presidency, he is generally acknowledged as having been equally responsible for the unprecedented economic growth experienced in those years.

He was chosen the presidential standard bearer of the ruling Lakas party, which he had co-founded, during the 1998 presidential elections which he lost to Joseph Estrada.

After Estrada's ouster, De Venecia ran for Congress in his native Pangasinan and was again elected Speaker of the House where he put his consensus-building skills to good use, concluding an alliance with the National People Coalition of businessman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. in the chamber.

It was the solid bloc of NPC legislators that forced the impeachment of Davide.

Indeed, much of the criticism of his efforts to find a "win-win solution" to the crisis stemmed from what many believe were his attempts to appease the NPC in order to save his own job.

De Venecia redeemed himself by leading the majority in the House in defeating the impeachment complaint and deciding to abide by the Supreme Court decision.

Diplomacy

Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, a Lakas stalwart and De Venecia supporter is all-admiration for the Speaker's "behind-the-scenes" diplomacy.

"The Speaker rose to the challenge with the courage of his conviction," Barbers said.

Rep. Prospero Nograles said De Venecia's actions did not diminish the House.

"In fact, the Speaker's actions enhanced the image of the House in the eyes of public opinion. We are all the better because of it," he said.

That "shining moment" could still cost De Venecia the Speakership but, still true to form, he is already moving to mend fences with his erstwhile NPC allies.

The next step now, he said, is to allow time to heal the wounds in the House and give reconciliation a chance in order to put the crisis behind.

"We need the support of all sectors. We need to unite and face the challenges of lifting our people from poverty," he added.

Forgive, forget

As the father of the House, he said he is always ready to forget and forgive.

"The proponents of impeachment did what they thought was right. We in the majority also did what we believe was right for our people," he said.

He expressed confidence that the NPC will remain with the "sunshine coalition" in the House and continue to push the anti-poverty programs of the Macapagal-Arroyo administration.

Force

De Venecia has acknowledged that the young NPC legislators, particularly the so-called "brat pack" that forced the Davide impeachment, was a force to reckon with despite their lack of political experience.

He said he understood the predicament of the young congressmen as well as other congressional colleagues who supported their cause.

But he said that in a democracy, the rule of the majority must always prevail.

GMA to allow Erap's US trip for health reasons

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From page A1

call for "total reconciliation" with Estrada and other anti-government forces. (*See related story on page A21.*)

Estrada immediately denied that he had struck a deal with Malacañang.

Illegal

Reacting to Ocampo's charges, some senators yesterday said any offer made by the President would be illegal as it would mean an encroachment by the executive branch into the jurisdiction of the courts.

Administration Sen. Francis Pangilinan said the President had no authority to even make such an offer.

"The efforts of President Macapagal in pursuing national reconciliation should never undermine or compromise the independence of the courts and the prosecution service," he said.

Pangilinan said that pending cases such as the Estrada plunder case "should be disposed of and motions decided upon on the basis of existing laws and jurisprudence and no other reason."

START OF THE CAMPAIGN? Posters of President Macapagal along East Avenue in QC advertise the opening of a "tiangge." JOAN BONDOC

In separate interviews, opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Manuel Villar advised Malacañang to observe prudence in its moves to reconcile a highly divided country.

Drilon and Pimentel said the jailed ex-President could only go abroad if permitted to do so by the Sandiganbayan.

"Because the case is pending, only the Sandiganbayan can make that ruling," said Drilon.

No authority

Villar said the President knows fully well that she has no authority to decide on Estrada's fate.

"How can she say that? If true, she is then saying that she has that right and that power belongs to her, which is not the case," said Villar.

Defensor said the jailed Estrada should be allowed to seek treatment in the US because the doctor of his choice is there.

He said Estrada has been complaining of a knee ailment for the two years that he has been detained.

"Even without reconciliation, medical ethics dictate that the patient should be given the doctor of his choice and I think we have to respect that," he said.

He said this was also the stand of some legislators who have medical backgrounds.

"We should now resolve this, we cannot leave the former President to suffer from an ailment that could threaten his life," Defensor said.

Defensor said Estrada would return to the country after his medical treatment, as the ousted leader has himself rejected exile.

Benefit GMA

He admitted that sending Estrada to the US would benefit Ms Macapagal politically.

"I think somehow, it will soften the people around him and his supporters... that genuine steps are being taken, not just lip service," Defensor said.

Even as the debate swirled over the advisability of allowing Estrada to leave for the US, the Ombudsman has asked the Supreme Court to order the Sandiganbayan to speed up the disgraced leader's plunder trial by setting hearings three days a week.

The government is appealing before the high court a Sandiganbayan decision denying its petition asking to have hearings conducted three days a week.

No jurisdiction

Countering the prosecutors' petition, Estrada lawyer Alan Paguia claimed that the Sandiganbayan has no jurisdiction over Estrada.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio, noting that the only argument against the petition for expediting the trial was Estrada's purported right not to be sued as President, asked the Supreme Court to dismiss Paguia's contention that the anti-graft court could not try his client because Estrada was still the country's legal President.

"[This] is a recurring phantom pain in the neck," said Villa-Ignacio.

He said both the Sandiganbayan and the Supreme Court have dismissed Paguia's claim that Estrada was "still President of the Republic, and not having been impeached, beyond the jurisdiction of the Sandiganbayan."

He said the high court has even threatened to sanction Paguia for his legal antics questioning the tribunal's final decision on the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration.

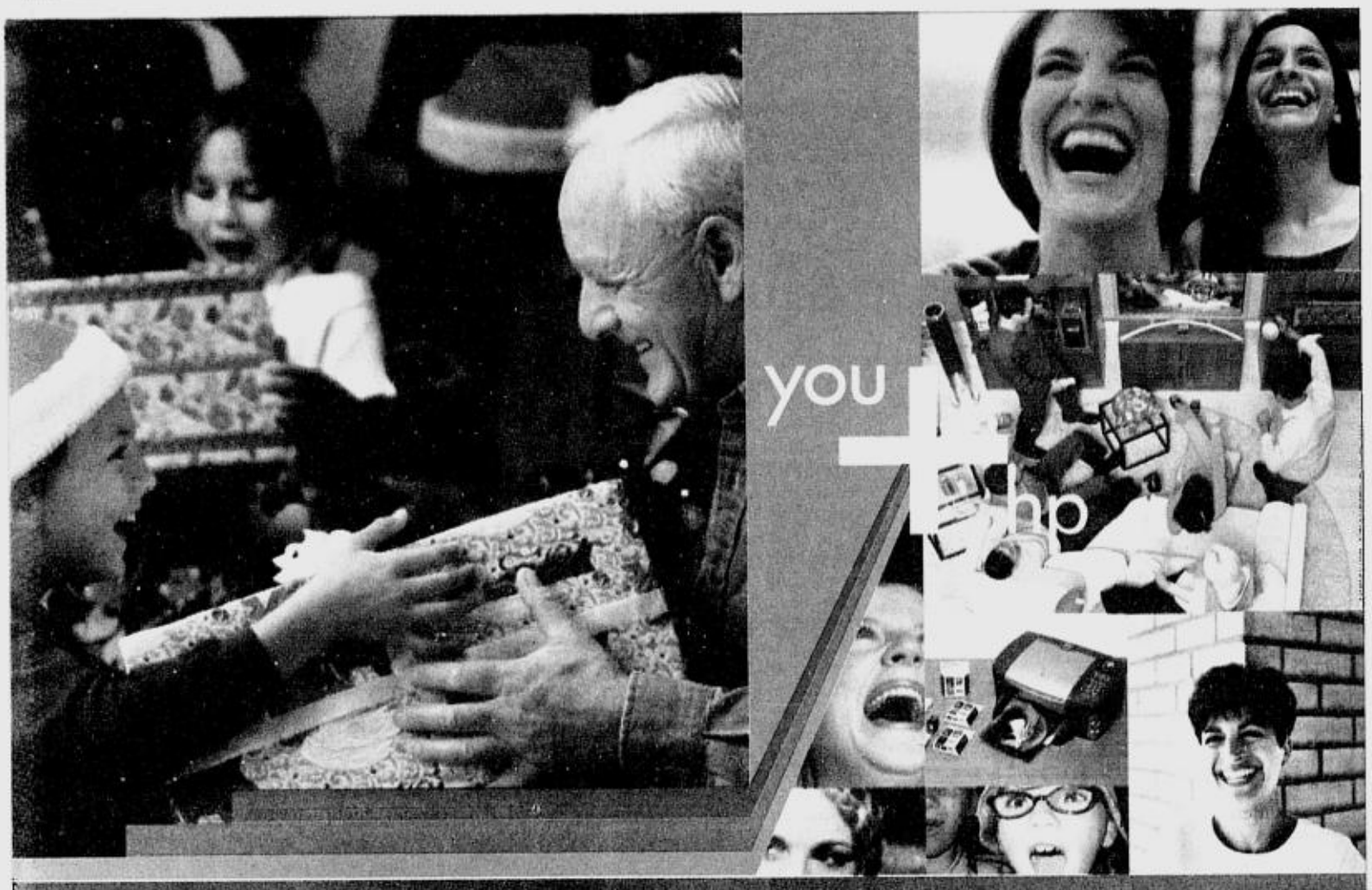
The prosecutor argued that delays in the plunder trial and its companion cases would continue to "bring artificial ill to the judiciary."

Exhausted options

"In fact, they [the Estrada camp] have long ago exhausted their common options that they can be seen to have since they have been experimenting with more radical moves that are basically engineered to bringing down with them, in their plunge to perdition, the democratic institutions of the country, particularly the judiciary," he said.

Villa-Ignacio said an "obvious remedy" to this was to expedite the plunder trial "and deprive the Estradas of both the strongest motivation and the launching pad for their tireless effort to spread out their misery."

If the government's petition is granted, the hearings would be conducted three days a week, from 8:30 a.m. to noon.



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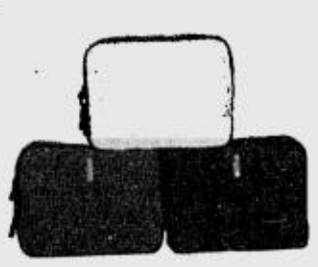

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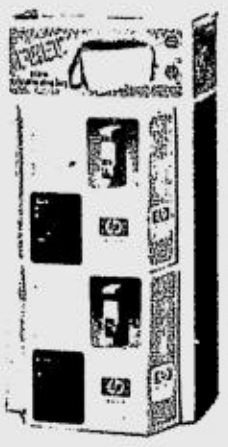

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METRO
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6/42 Luzon 1 3 6 12 14 37
Vis-Min 2 5 7 8 9 23

UP study: Malabon water unsafe

Researchers find fecal coliform in large measures

By Tina Santos

DRINKING water in the Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas-Valenzuela area has been found to contain more than 16 fecal coliform bacteria per 100 ml., about 14 times more than the national standard of less than 2.2 coliform bacteria per 100 ml. of water.

This was the result of a test conducted on drinking water in areas affected by the recent upsurge of cholera cases, particularly in Barangay Longos, Malabon, according to the University of the Philippines Natural Sciences Research Institute.

The presence of fecal coliform bacteria in drinking water is "cause for concern as many diseases can be spread through fecal transmission," said a statement from the Freedom from Debt Coalition.

The militant nongovernment organization also belied a Department of Health report that there was no evidence of an outbreak of gastroenteritis in the Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela (Camanava) areas.

The urban poor group Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Maralitang Lungsod had earlier reported the outbreak of cholera cases in Camanava.

But the DOH said that even if the 10 cases were verified, the figures were still within the baseline level set by the health department.

The FDC, however, accused the DOH of being irresponsible when it downplayed the threat of water-borne diseases.

It also said Maynilad Water Services Inc., which supplies water in Camanava, should also be held accountable for the disease outbreak.

"They (Maynilad) were very quick in washing their hands off by passing on the blame to illegal connections, and passing on the responsibilities to housing authorities, even without the benefit of investigation into the cause and circumstances of the incidents," said the FDC in a statement.

The FDC said most of the pipes in Malabon were made of asbestos and galvanized iron (GI), which have already been weakened by old age, constant flooding and salty water.

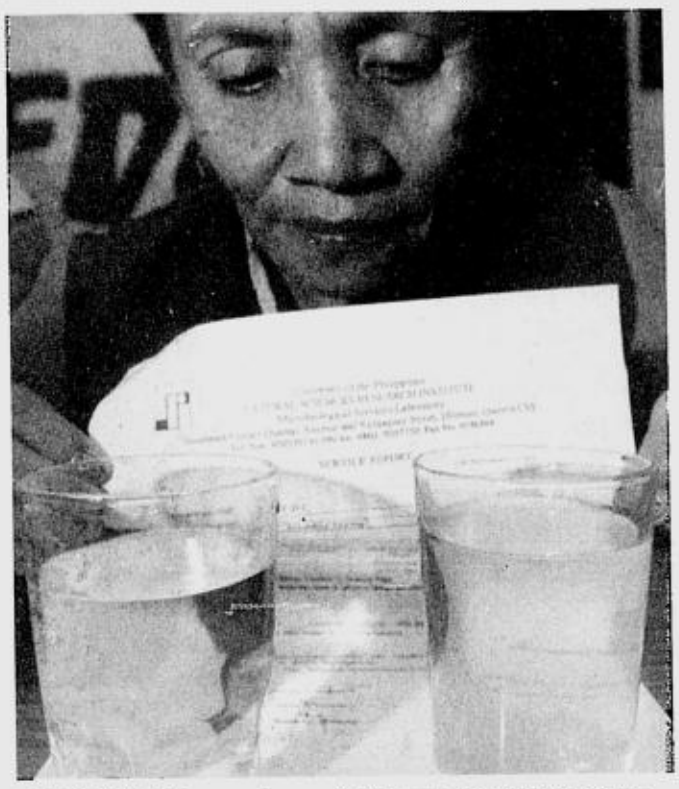
"Maynilad obligated itself to replace the existing old pipes but didn't," the FDC statement said, adding that the water firm failed to maintain enough water pressure to prevent the ingress of contaminated water into their pipe networks.

The group also accused Maynilad of overcharging its clients of about P2.4 billion since January.

In spite of the alleged overcharge and six water rate increases, Maynilad has failed to improve their networks and services, the militants claimed.

Yesterday, Maynilad officials filed a petition before a Quezon City Regional Trial Court for corporate rehabilitation so they can reschedule the payment of its huge debts.

In a petition, the FDC also asked the government to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation of the problem, ensure compensation and medical assistance for the victims, grant no more extensions to Maynilad regarding the payment of its concession fees, and initiate steps to restore ownership and management of water utility services to the public.



A RESIDENT of Barangay Longos in Malabon shows samples of the water (right) taken from their faucets, and compared it to tap water (left) taken from Quezon City. The glass of water at right has a light brown shade. JOAN BONDOC

Napolcom to recruit 6,000 cops by yearend

Margaux Ortiz

SIX THOUSAND more policemen will be recruited by the end of the year, the National Police Commission announced on Friday.

The Napolcom has ordered the Philippine National Police to hire 6,000 new police officers beginning Nov. 15 to Dec. 31, 2003, following the Department of Budget and Management's issuance of a special allotment release order amounting to P319 million, which will support the recruitment of additional policemen.

Interior and Local Government Secretary and Napolcom Chair Jose Lina Jr. said in a statement that the Commission's issuance is in response to the problem of not having enough lawmen to effectively maintain peace, order and public safety in the country.

The PNP earlier said that it needs 164,000 lawmen to meet the ideal ratio of one cop for every 500 persons, as provided under Section 27 of Republic Act No. 6975, or the PNP law.

The current strength of the PNP stands at 114,000—50,000 short of what the PNP actually needs, Lina said.

"The manning levels of the PNP should, however, vary depending on the state of peace and order, population density and actual demands of the service in a particular area," Lina stressed.

Lina said Western Visayas, Central Visayas and the National Capital Region need the most number of new police officers, with 530, 450 and 400, respectively.

The Napolcom last month issued a memorandum which prescribed revised guidelines in the PNP recruitment process. Lina said the circular on recruitment will ensure that only the best and the most qualified would enter the force.

Jail officials get their act together to improve penal system

By Christine Paita

OFFICIALS of the Bureau of Corrections are trying to revive a proposal to change the prison institution and turn it into a single correctional system.

"We have so many agencies involved in the system of corrections, I think it's best that we have one practice, one area, one direction for all," BuCor Director Dionisio Santiago told INQUIRER in an interview.

Santiago said that the change need not entail a new name: from BuCor into the "Department of Corrections."

But he said what is important is for that separate entity to have an all-encompassing power to integrate the correctional system.

"The standards in the different prisons are hazy," said Supt. Venjo Tesoro, head of BuCor's public information office. "There are jails with low subsistence allowance for prisoners. Majority of jails also do not have rehabilitation programs, such as those on education and skills development."

Tesoro said there is a need to set correctional standards for all penal institutions in the country, including the provincial and municipal jails.

"If there's a department that would oversee the enforcement of standards on security and on the prisoners' rehabilitation and welfare, breach of simple rules as well as human rights violations would be avoided," Tesoro said.

If BuCor can stand as a separate agency, it can act as an integrating unit, since "the government's efforts (on prison institutions) are fragmented."

The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology is under the Department of Interior and Local Government. Probation and parole are under the DOJ, while supervision and maintenance of facilities are under the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Santiago said the proposal for a single correctional system under an independent BuCor might be met with resistance from the different agencies.

He said the agencies might not be willing to let go of the budgetary allocation and their authority over the penal facilities.

METROBRIEFS

An officer but no gentleman

POLICE are now looking for Army Capt. Geronimo Pangilinan, allegedly for showing his genitals to a woman near the Mary Immaculate Concepcion Hospital in Pasig City on Thursday. Police said Pangilinan, assigned with the Army's Headquarters Support Group and resident of Fort Bonifacio, was moonlighting as an FX taxi driver when he told his lone passenger, a 35-year-old married woman, that he was going to stop the vehicle to relieve himself at around 10:30 a.m. But Pangilinan opened the door where the woman was sitting, took out is organ and played with it. The woman hit him with her mobile phone and left. She managed to follow the suspect and learned his identity. Pangilinan is facing charges of unjust vexation, P03 Aron Samal said. *Luige del Puerto*

Hanging by skin of his neck

THREE garbage men on Friday night found the body of a man with his head almost severed in a trash heap at the foot of the overpass on A.H. Lacson Street, Manila. Demetrio Soriano, Geraldo Ponce and Reynaldo Mago, all employees of the Leonel Waste Management company, told police that while they were hauling garbage at 11:45 p.m., they found a pink sack, which contained the remains of a slim man, about 30 to 40 years old, 5 feet tall, and dressed in a white T-shirt and denim pants, said SP01 Raul Olavario. *Leila Salaverria*

Death to his lover

A SPURNED lover on Friday morning went on a rampage in Quezon City, killing his former girlfriend, Rojean Coraza, and wounding her roommate, Jackie Lou Banate. Truck driver Charlie Cruz, 37, of Unang Sigaw, Quezon City, tried to take his own life after he stabbed Coraza, 21, and Lou Banate, 15, both stay-in workers of the Green Express Trucking Service on San Francisco Street, Vic Mar Compound, Baesa. But barangay security men foiled his attempt to hang himself and turned him over to the police. Investigators said Cruz went to the room of the victims to convince Coraza to go back to him. *Tina Santos*

Casual killing

A MAN yesterday morning casually walked up to Arnold F. Nepomuceno of Tondo, Manila, pulled out a gun and shot him in the back of the head. P01 Rommel del Rosario said Nepomuceno, 32, was standing in front of a store on Raha Bago Street, Tondo when he was shot and killed at around 1 a.m. *Leila Salaverria*

Prop seminar

THE PROP Convention-Seminar with the theme, "Building a Strong Republic: A Communication Challenge," slated on Nov. 24-26 at the AFP-COC, in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, will be held next year due to unavoidable circumstances. Organizers of the seminar will be posting details on when and where the activity will take place.

Drug-free community? No such thing, say cops

By Luige del Puerto

WHEN do you consider a barangay "cleared" of the drug menace?

Under the Philippine National Police's anti-illegal drugs campaign, a barangay is declared "cleared" if it is "100 percent" free of drug pushers and users.

But Metro Manila police chiefs want to modify this parameter because it is unattainable, according to an official from the Eastern Police District.

"Under the current system, a barangay could only be declared 'cleared' if it is 100-percent free of pushers and users," said Mandaluyong City police chief Sr. Supt. Ericson Velasquez. "But there's no such thing as '100-percent free.' That's Utopian."

The police chiefs have now recommended to PNP Deputy Director Edgardo Aglipay, head of Oplan Banat (Barangay Anti-Narcotics Abusers and Traffickers), for "empowerment" to be the basis for declaring a barangay "cleared" of the drug menace, Velasquez said.

Under this system, the police would help strengthen a barangay's Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC), which will be the lead unit in pursuing a drug-free community, with police units as support groups.

Second, barangay officials and the police must implement or reinforce a drug awareness campaign among residents.

Third, police and BADAC must then identify and neutralize pushers and users in a territory.

Barangay officers would also be deployed to watch over a district or zone so that transients—visiting users and pushers—could be quickly identified and accosted.

Another important component of the recommended program is the establishment of a comprehensive rehabilitation program, Velasquez said.

"Once these things are set in place, only then will the police declare a barangay 'clear' of the problem," Velasquez said.

The official said this way, the police will not be accused of lying once it declares a barangay "100-percent free" of illegal drugs.

"The drug menace is more complicated than cutting weeds in a garden," Velasquez said, explaining that people move all the time and pushers could crop up in barangay that had just been recently "cleared."

The idea was raised in a conference of leaders whose communities are adversely affected by the drug problem in Camp Crame this week.

During the conference, the President publicly castigated three police district directors who performed below her expectations.

EPD Director Chief Supt. Rolando Sacramento, one of the three directors, earned Ms Macapagal's ire after the San Juan police force failed to "clear" a single community since June.

THERE seems to be no letup in the government's campaign against drugs. In this file photo, President Macapagal-Arroyo and ranking government officials show off bags of shabu seized from a warehouse in Valenzuela. VAL HANDUMON

Drug raids mount in Metro

By Leila Salaverria and Edson Tandoc Jr.

THE WESTERN Police District is hoping to reduce by more than half the number of drug infested barangay units in Manila by next month, according to WPD Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong.

He said in an interview aired over dzMM yesterday that there are only 325 drug-infested barangay units left in the city.

By Dec. 15, Bulaong hopes 200 of these barangay units would be declared drug-free.

In a phone interview, Bulaong said the most drug-infested barangay units in Manila are in Quiapo and Tondo, especially in the residential areas along railroad tracks. He attributed this to the congestion in the areas, and cited the case of Quiapo, where there are a lot of transients who may be involved in the drug trade.

The Northern Police District is also aiming to clear 79 barangay units of drug activities in 45 days.

In a "special meeting" on Tuesday, NPD director Marcelino Franco ordered the police chiefs of Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela to intensify barangay clearing operations in their respective areas to reduce by 50 percent the number of drug infested barangay units before the year ends.

The NPD has listed 152 drug-affected barangay units in the Camanava area.

Franco called the "special meeting" a day after President Macapagal-Arroyo scolded him and several other police officials for failing to make a dent in the war against drugs.

Boy shot by drunken lawmen dies in hospital

Tina Santos

SHARVILLE Godeluna, the 6-year-old boy who was accidentally shot by two policemen in Quezon City, is dead.

Godeluna had been in a coma from the time he was shot in the head last Sunday.

He died yesterday morning at the Quirino Memorial Medical Center.

Central Police District investigators said the suspects—PO1 Jovino Bautista Marcos Jr., 30, and PO1 Carlo Mojica, 29, both detailed with the national police's Special Action Force Support Battalion based in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig—have been initially charged with frustrated homicide.

The two are now out on bail, police said.

"Look at what they did to my nephew?" said the boy's aunt, who refused to be named. "He was so young and full of dreams, but what now?"

Investigators said Marcos and Mojica were both drunk when they began chasing a certain Edgar Icaciano, 24, with whom they had a fight earlier that Sunday. The chase led them to Godeluna's neighborhood on Pelaez Street, Project 4, Quezon City.

Witnesses said the suspects were firing in the air while they were chasing Icaciano. One of the bullets hit the boy and two other bystanders, identified as Eric Llagas, 23, and Romulo Christian Alarcon, 20.

Relatives said the boy was playing with neighborhood kids when the incident happened at 5:45 p.m.

Llagas sustained a gunshot wound in the hand while Alarcon was hit on the leg. Icaciano also suffered a wound in the head when the policemen caught up with him and pistol-whipped him.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday SPORTS

A25

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

BOXING: Pacquiao vs Barrera; 11 a.m.; RPN 9 and Solar Sports (r-10:30 p.m.)—All eyes will be on "Merciless" Manny Pacquiao as he faces a tough opponent in Marco Antonio Barrera in Las Vegas.

BASKETBALL: NBA Sixers vs Cavs; 8:30 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports—Allen Iverson leads Philadelphia against LeBron James and his Cleveland teammates.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

'CLASH OF THE TITANS'

Pacquiao fights Barrera today

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

CAN IBF superbantam champ Manny Pacquiao rise to the occasion today against a man considered by many as the finest featherweight on the planet?

That question will be answered today when Pacquiao, brandishing a one-punch knockout power unseen from a Filipino fighter in recent years, trades blows with Mexican and world boxing hero Marco Antonio Barrera in a 12-round war dubbed "Clash of the Titans" for the People's Featherweight Championship of the World and Ring Magazine title at the famed Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas.

It's a clash between a young lion and a great champion, each raring to shape the landscape of boxing with a victory.

The 12-round fight will be aired on a simulcast at Solar Sports and RPN-9 starting at 11 a.m. today.

In yesterday's weigh-in presided by ring announcer Michael Buffer at the Sunset Station in San Antonio, Texas, Pacquiao, sporting a Jim Carrey hairdo, tipped the scales at 125 lbs, while Barrera came in at 126.

The Filipino stepped on the scales after Barrera then flexed his muscles for the more than 300 onlookers. Silence enveloped the mostly pro-Barrera crowd upon seeing Pacquiao's ultra-muscular physique for his first fight as a featherweight.

Barrera and Pacquiao—both wearing rosary beads—then posed for photographers, shook hands, then went their separate ways.

Barrera and Pacquiao will use the Mexico-made Cleto Reyes gloves touted as "puncher's gloves," and favor heavy-handed bangers like Pacquiao.

"I will teach Pacquiao a boxing lesson," Barrera was quoted as saying by Games and Amusements Board Chairman Eduardo Villanueva, who will be at ringside today to lead a small Filipino group in giving Pacquiao the much-needed moral support.

Pacquiao, upon learning of Barrera's prediction, said he would knock out Barrera instead.

American trainer Freddie Roach, who thinks Pacquiao deserves more than the $350,000 purse he'll get for the fight, said a sixth-round KO for the Filipino is very possible.

"If he doesn't knock him out, Pacquiao is ready to go 12 rounds," said Roach, who will be in the corner of Pacquiao for the fifth time.

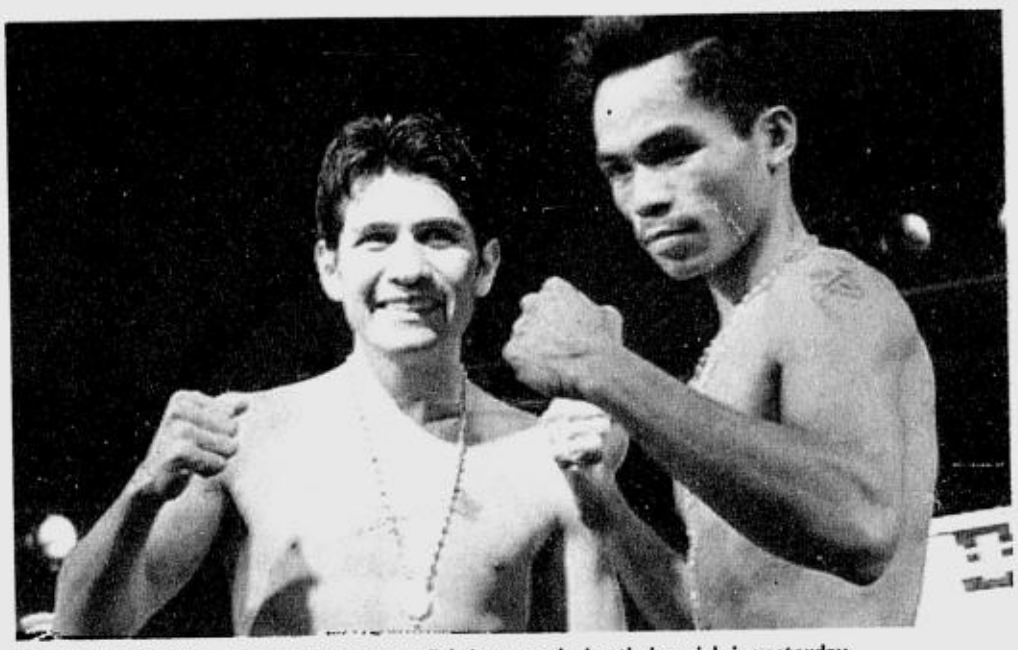
The 43-year-old Hall of Famer said Barrera has gained his respect when the Mexican beat ex-world champ Johnny Tapia in November last year.

But Roach, who was in Tapia's corner then, said Tapia is an aging puncher compared to Pacquiao, who is five years younger than Barrera at 24.

Roach said Pacquiao's quickness will be another factor going for the Filipino aside from his vaunted punching power.

"Barrera doesn't have many weaknesses. He's a complete fighter. But he's not that active as he used to be. So we'll try to take advantage of it by making him fight three minutes of every round," Roach said.

The Mexican, an inch taller than Pacquiao at 5-foot-7 and enjoys a three-inch advantage in reach, is a veteran of 60 fights. He owns 57 wins, 40 of them by knockout.



PACQUIAO (right) and Barrera strike up a fighting pose during their weigh-in yesterday.

Pacquiao has fought only 40 times, prevailing on 37 occasions, 29 of them inside the distance. He won three of his last four fights by knockout.

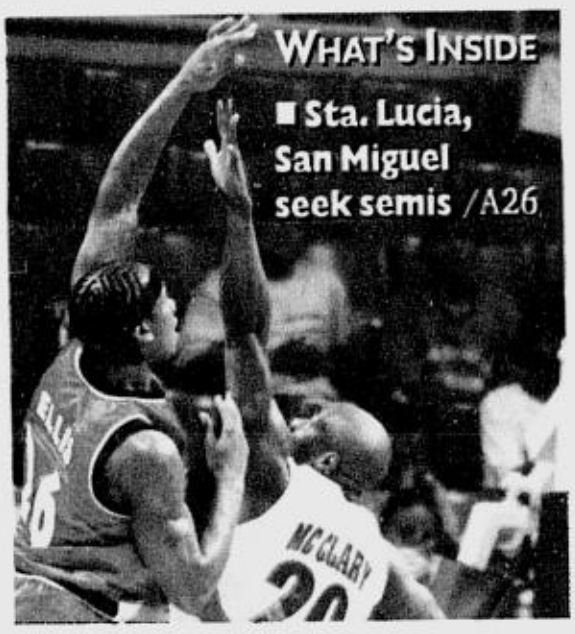
If he wins, Pacquiao has to fight Barrera again with the Filipino now assured of a $750,000 payday.

With reports from Rey Danseco

Mendoza grabs WBA title

SEOUL, South Korea—Beibis Mendoza of Colombia won a unanimous decision over South Korea's Choi Yosam on Saturday to become the World Boxing Association's new light flyweight champion.

Mendoza (30-2, 24 KOs) knocked Choi down in the third round. *AP*



WHAT'S INSIDE

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PSC waits for additional P90-M SEA Games budget

By Marc Anthony Reyes

A TOTAL of P5 million will be transmitted by the Philippine Sports Commission tomorrow to the organizers of the Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam as down payment for the hotel accommodations of the 658-strong Philippine delegation.

After spending close to P100 million for the training of the athletes, the PSC is asking P90 million more from Malacañang for the actual participation of the contingent for the Dec. 5-12 SEAG.

The additional budget, which will take care mostly of the hotel, air fare, allowances, uniforms and equipment of athletes and officials, has yet to be released.

While the PSC asked for only a P30-million subsidy from Malacañang in the 2001 SEAG, officials said the country is sending more athletes, 449 in all, this time in Vietnam.

Additional funds are also needed because of the new billeting arrangements in Vietnam.

For the first time in SEAG history, athletes will be housed according to their sports and not by the country they represent.

This, according to organizers, would save them a lot of money in terms of transportation considering that billeting will be very close to the playing venues.

GINEBRA'S Rosell Ellis (left) hooks a shot off Coca-Cola's Tee McClary in their game Friday. Coca-Cola won, 85-77. ROGER MARGALLO

Sta. Lucia, San Miguel seek semis

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4 p.m.—FedEx vs San Miguel
6:30 p.m.—Alaska vs Sta. Lucia

By June Navarro

SAN Miguel Beer and Sta. Lucia Realty hope to arrange a best-of-five semifinal duel when they take on separate rivals today in the quarterfinals of the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

The top-seeded Realtors try to finish off the Alaska Aces at 6:30 p.m. after taking Game 1, 88-79, during their best-of-three series opener last week. The Beermen, who wound up second in Group A, defeated the FedEx Express, 97-92, and are also seeking to advance into the next round.

Sta. Lucia Realty coach Alfrancis Chua and San Miguel Beer's Jong Uichico, however, agreed that slipping past their quarterfinal opponents would take more than just skill and stamina to get the job done.

"We have so much respect on Alaska's ability to bounce back. In practice, I motivate my players by pushing them to the limit. I also make sure to prepare the team mentally because in the playoffs, you cannot survive by sheer talent alone," said Chua.

Kenneth Duremdes, Marlou Aquino and Dennis Espino form a potent offensive force together with Ray Tutt, who replaced the injured Damian Owens before the quarterfinals. Jason Webb, Kiko Adriano and Paolo Mendoza are also expected to deliver the goods for the Realtors in the backcourt.

The Realtors, however, have to watch out for the impending return of Ali Peek, who sat out the Aces' last five games after undergoing surgery to remove fluids on his left knee.

Peek, the Aces' top local scorer, could fill the Aces' hole in the middle and team up with Isaac Fontaine, John Arigo, Mike Cortez, Brandon Cablay and Robert Duat on the offensive end.

The Beermen are as threatened as the Realtors when they clash with the Express in the curtain-raiser.

"We don't want to take chances especially against FedEx. They lack playoff experience but it's better to be paranoid than feel sorry in the end," said Uichico, whose Beermen are in their 21st straight post-elimination round appearance, the longest streak among active teams.

Proving to be the hungrier team, the Express are seeking their first-ever semifinal stint in a regular conference since joining the league last season.

The Express, in their second straight quarterfinals appearance, copped third place in the Invitationals tournament but it wasn't considered a regular conference at all.

Meanwhile, Kerby Raymundo of Purefoods and Talk 'N Text slotman Asi Taulava dispute the Purefoods-Ginebra PBA King of the Court one-on-one tournament crown for players 6-foot-4 and above after the San Miguel-FedEx encounter.

Welcoat streaks to 3rd victory

GAMES TODAY (*Pasay Sports Complex*)
2 p.m.—RP vs Sunkist-UST (Exhibition)
4 p.m.—Blustar vs Montana

ROOKIE JR Reyes and veteran Jercules Tangkay struck hardest in the clutch yesterday as Welcoat Paints took a 68-64 come-from-behind win over Viva Mineral Water-FEU for the solo lead in the PBL Platinum Cup at the Pasay Astrodome.

The 6-foot-8 Reyes pumped in back-to-back baskets and the 6-1 Tangkay added one in the final two minutes as the Paint Masters notched their third straight win in as many outings.

It was the first win by the Paint Masters over the Water Force in four meetings this year. The Water Force dropped to 0-2.

ICTSI-La Salle leaned on the heroics of Dino Aldeguer to stun Ateneo-backed Fash Liquid Detergent, 68-66, in overtime and barge into the win-column after dropping its first two games.

The 5-foot-9 Aldeguer hit three charities and came through with two steals in the final two minutes of the extension period as the Archers pulled down Liquid Power to 1-2 in a tie with Blustar Detergent.

Joaquim Thoss topscored for the Archers with 17 while Aldeguer and Joseph Yeo combined for 23 points. Peter June Simon and Nino Gelig led Fash with 13 points each.

"*Nakabawi din kami dahil hindi kami nanalo ng tatlong beses sa kanila* (We finally won after losing three times) in the previous conference," said coach Leo Austria. "We started slow but we managed to recover."

Tangkay, who played for Sta. Lucia in the PBA, topscored for the Paint Masters with 17 points, including 9 in the final quarter.

In the end, it was Welcoat's resolve and experience that spelled the difference.

Austria said his boys took some time to put their hearts into the game due to their various commitments.

Reyes, a recruit from the University of the Philippines, gave Welcoat its first taste of the lead at 66-64.

After Viva failed to buy a basket in its last four attempts, Tangkay sealed the outcome, 68-64, with only 9.1 seconds left.

Scores:

First Game

WELCOAT 68—Tangkay 17, Yap 13, Reyes 10, Sotto 8, Pingris 8, Capus 6, Cuan 4, Omolon 2, Wilson 0, Artadi 0, Santos 0, Kalaw 0.

VIVA 64—Santos 15, Margate 10, Jones 10, Ybanez 7, Misolas 6, Razon 4, Rizada 4, Napa 3, Co 3, Miranda 2, Cinco 0, Isip 0.

Quarters: 9-25, 25-37; 44-48; 68-64

Second Game

ICTSI-LA SALLE 68—Thoss 17, Yeo 13, Aldeguer 10, Cardona 8, Tang 5, Uy 5, Villanueva 4, Ramos 2, Cabatu 2, Gavino 2, Jose 0.

FASH LIQUID 66—Gelig 13, Simon 13, Tenorio 12, Salangsang 10, Alvarez 8, Mercado 5, Benedicto 3, Gonzales 2, Tan 0, Dualan 0, Moore 0, Bugia 0, Dy 0.

Quarters: 17-12; 28-23; 15-49; 61-61; 68-66

Paragua posts perfect score in Paris

PARAGUA

FILIPINO GM-candidate Mark Paragua beat IM Kamran Shirazi of the United States in the last round to capture the recent Lutece Chess Open in Paris with a perfect score of seven points.

The former 1998 World U-14 Rapid Chess champion also crushed Tunisia GM Slim Belkhodja in the 5th round of the 64-player event to gain 13 rating points and boost his Elo to 2511.

"*Hindi naman masyadong malakas ang field pero* to score 7/7 *maganda na rin*. Maybe this will be my last classical tournament and play two or more rapid tournaments before returning home *para sa* SEA Games," said the 19-year-old enlisted member of the Philippine Air Force.

Paragua also topped a round-robin blitz tournament held in Paris Chess XV Chess Club last Friday with a perfect score of 15/15.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, on the other hand, approved last Friday afternoon the 950-Euro request of Mark and his father, Ric, for their two return-trip tickets to the Philippines. They hope to be back in Manila either Nov. 23 or 24.

"With the strong finish of Paragua in two tournaments in Paris and the 1-2-3 finish of our three GMs (Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio and Bong Villamayor) in Leuven, Belgium, the RP chess team is now almost 100 percent ready to do battle in the coming Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam," said lawyer Sammy Estimo, secretary general of the NCFP headed by lawyer Matias Defensor. "Thanks for the undying support of the FG Foundation and the PSC."

Meanwhile, the 1st engineer Albert "Bito" Cruz Cup 2003 Pandayan non-master chess tournament unreels today at the Cardinal Academy, Barangay Pandayan in Meycauayan Bulacan. A total pot of P 15,000 is at stake, with the winner getting P4,000. *NM Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Freestyle champs earn Singapore trip

EXPLOSIVE freestyle performances from over 250 participants marked the Nike Freestyle Face Off last Friday, with the four champions earning tickets to Singapore to represent the Philippines in the Southeast Asian Regional Final Face Off at Youth Park, Somerset Road, on Nov. 15.

Niño Ventura, John Moises Melaño, Peter Benjamen Abria II and Stanley Kareth were adjudged the best freestylers in the two-hour contest of fancy basketball and football moves and tricks. Each of them won individual trophies and P30,000 worth of Nike products, aside from the Singapore trip.

Other countries with representatives vying for the Southeast Asian Regional Final Face Off are Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia. The Nike Philippines contingent will be leaving for Singapore on Nov. 14.

"I'm so overwhelmed. The years I spent mastering the freestyle moves from Nike videos finally paid off. I'm excited to compete in Singapore and hopefully I can bring home the championship," said 18-year-old Ventura, a freshman at Asia Pacific College.

Hosted by Vito Lazatin, Tricia Chiongbian, Migs Vasquez and Greg Martin, the event also enjoyed special coverage from Solar Sports and MTV Asia.

Composing the judging team were Nike athlete Jeffrey Cariaso, television personality Dyan Castillejo, international football player Freddy Gonzales, Nike Philippines marketing manager Colo Ventosa and sports marketing manager Auty Villarama.

Meanwhile, the six non-winning finalists during the Face Off received special medals. They were Anthony Arcilla, Earnest Hennrick Mendiola, Joshua Gueco, Sung Hag Ahn, Johnny Newborn and De Vaughn Cobb.

"The Nike Freestyle Face Off was a rousing success with a thousand partygoers enjoying the event with three of the country's top DJs. We congratulate all the winners and thank everyone who participated in the event," said Rely San Agustin, Nike Philippines marketing communications manager.

SPORTSWATCH

RP soft tennis teams land fifth

THE PHILIPPINE men and women soft tennis teams finished fifth in their respective divisions during the 12th Hiroshima World Cup Soft Tennis Championships held Nov. 4-11 in Hiroshima, Japan. The men's team, composed of playing coach Winifredo De Leon Jr., Bong Paguyo, Michael Enriquez, Orlando Silvoza and Samuel Nuguit beat the Indonesian team, 2-1, in the qualifying round while the women's team, composed of playing coach Josephine Paguyo, Petrona Bantay, Dinna Cruz, Belen Dante and Karen Bundalian bested the United States, 2-1, also in the qualifying round of the 32-nation tournament. Tony Tamayo, Philippine Soft Tennis Association president and University of Perpetual Help System chair, said the fifth place finishes were the best ever for Philippine teams. Delegation head Francis Hervas, PSTA treasurer, and Robert Tamayo attended the International Soft Tennis Federation general assembly which coincided with the event.

Pasig badminton meet slated

THE FIRST Mayor Emiliano Caruncho Memorial Cup slated Nov. 22-23 at the Badminton Gold Sports Center in Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City has attracted a big number of participants. The organizing committee is headed by Boogie Ona of Indoor Sports Specialists Inc. "The tournament, which is designed to upgrade the level of badminton and increase the following of the sports within the Pasig area, has already achieved its initial goal. This is because 85 percent of the number of entries are residents of Pasig," said Ona. The event is in memory of the mayor who transformed the once sleepy barrio into a booming and progressive municipality during his term from 1956-1986. It is backed by Tru-flex, Mondo, Mr. Quickie, Caruncho Scholarship Foundation, Goldilocks-One Mercedes branch, Mariposa Hotels and One Mercedes Plaza. For details, call the Badminton Sports Center at 642-6623.

National bowlers flex might

NATIONAL keglers Richie Poblete, Biboy Rivera and RJ Bautista led the march of the favorites in the 23rd Pasig Bowling Association Open Tenpin Championships on Friday at the Green Valley Country Club lanes in Pasig City. Poblete of TBAM rolled 963 and Atba's Bautista, who partnered with Paeng Nepomuceno in winning the gold in the 2002 Asian Games, posted a 932 to pace the qualifiers in the Open Masters event. Frederick Ong of PBAP-Bowlmart is the other top qualifier with his 924 in the division where Biboy Rivera of TBAM-Prima is the defending champion. Rivera will have his hands full in the Sunday finals as he also guns for the men's Class O singles after carding a 986.

Bacolor cockpit first anniversary

THE BACOLOR cockpit Arena, fast gaining recognition as an ideal venue of bigtime and medium-scale derbies in Pampanga, will celebrate it's first anniversary by staging a super 4-cock derby on Friday, Nov. 21. At stake is a cash prize of P1 million while entry fee is P22,000. At the helm of BCA's smooth operations are the famous Jingco Brothers (Jun and Rudy), Ramon Ricafort and engineers Efren Canlas and Damian Ramos. About 50 well-known cockers and breeders of Metro Manila and Central are seeing action. Members of Ucap and NCA have also confirmed their participation, according to Rudy Jingco who is a regular NCA member. Actual submission of weights (1.8 kg to 2.4 kg) will be held on derby day, from 6 a.m. to 12 noon only. Derby starts at 5 p.m.

Fistorama elimination bouts

SAMSUNG's "Fistorama" today continues with its exciting elimination bouts in the flyweight division. Fil-Am sensation Glen Donaire faces unbeaten Bernardo Oclos in eight rounds. The winner advances to the finals and fight for the Fistorama Flyweight championship in December. The fight was held recently at the state-of-the-art Joe Cantada Boxing Arena in Bicutan, Taguig. The show, now on its second year, is aired at 2 p.m., Sundays on RPN 9 and is backed by Samsung Electronics Phils. Corp., Golf Power follows the boxing favorite at 3 p.m.

AYALA GOLFEST
Members of the Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) Golf Club recently played to raise funds for one of their company's 15th anniversary projects, the Build A Schoolhouse Project. The event was graced by Dorothy Ardina, champion of the 2003 US Kids World Golf tilt. Winners from left are Ronald Lucas, Class C guests; Genee Salamanca, Class B members; Marx Hernandez, Class A members; Sammy Lazo, Class A guests; Francisco H. Licuanan, ALI president; Tony de Ubago, overall champion; Fernando Zobel de Ayala, ALI chair; Luis Lava, Class C members; Corazon Ballard, ladies, and Rex Chan, Class B guests.

CARUNCHO CUP
Nino Caruncho of Caruncho Scholarship Foundation (third from left) hands over the sponsorship check to Boogie Ona of Indoor Specialists Inc., organizer of the first Mayor Emiliano Caruncho Memorial Cup slated Nov. 22-23 in Pasig City. From left, Allan Lavarro of official venue Badminton Gold Sports Center and Randy Villanueva of Tru-flex and Mondo badminton court surfaces.

BILLIARDS CHAMP
Bernard Marbella (left) receives the trophy and prize money after topping the 9-Balls of Fire pool tournament at the Rommel's parlor on Amoranto Ave., Quezon City. Marbella ruled Class O & A. Other winners in the tournament supported by the PCSO are Joey Pardales (Class B & C) and Kate Ong (Ladies).

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Battle-weary Barrera 'knockable'

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

NOT that Manny Pacquiao is a Filipino. I am for him today in his fight against Marco Antonio Barrera because I honestly believe he has the ability, the heart and, most important of all, the punching power to beat the Mexican. As I said, only the likes of a Manny Pacquiao can knock Barrera out. Fight time by the way starts at 12 noon or thereabouts and is to be shown both on RPN 9 and Solar Sports. Preliminaries begin at 11 a.m. at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas, USA.

Nationality—race, if you will—has nothing to do with my prediction. As always, objectivity has always been the name of the game for me.

If, say, Pacquiao were meeting someone in the mold of a Sugar Ray Robinson, Muhammad Ali or Sugar Ray Leonard, I wouldn't pick him. But Barrera—great ring record and all—isn't even a fraction of any of the three when it comes to the movement department. I have seen some of Barrera's fights on TV, the last his bout with the famed Erik Morales. Barrera won that one on points—but it wasn't a convincing victory.

Oh, sure, Barrera, the "People's Champion of the World," can move. But his moves pale in comparison to Ali and the two Sugar Rays.

Every boxer can move. But it's the quality of moves we are talking about here. No one can beat the way Robinson, Ali and Leonard move; they are masters of avoiding harm's way that they can wade into a crocodile farm without a single croc noticing them.

There is talk that Barrera, undisputedly the best 126-lb boxer in the world today, will move, move and move against Pacquiao today. Fine. That means he is really scared of Pacquiao's punching power.

But Barrera has to have the Ali shuffle, if not the Astaire tap dance mystique, to gain a measure of success today. Also, by employing that, he can only hope that he won't get tagged. For as the great Joe Louis said, "You can run, but you cannot hide."

To his credit, Barrera, even if he decides to fight from a distance, has the uncanny ability of unleashing torrid, if not solid, counter punches. I've seen him employ that to near-perfection in his victorious fight with Morales.

But if he decides to mix it up, Barrera is also a noted knockout artist. In 60 fights, he won 40 by knockout and lost only 3. Even in his amateur days, Barrera's mark was impeccable: 63-2.

Barrera could be battle-weary by now. He turned pro in 1989 at age 15.

The 29-year-old Barrera has been knocked out only once—by Junior Jones. Barrera's two other losses as a pro were on points. Before absorbing that knockout loss to Jones, Barrera was also decked by Agapito Sanchez and Kennedy McKinney, proof that Barrera could fall prey to Pacquiao's devastating shots.

Pacquiao's record of 37-2-1 includes 29 knockouts; three coming in his last four fights, with one ending in a technical draw. And, yes, in the last four fights, Pacquiao's corner man was the venerable Freddie Roach. Roach, who has worked the corner for Mike Tyson, Michael Moorer, Marlon Starling and nearly 16 other great fighters, the most recent being James Toney in that infamous Toney-Holyfied mismatch won by Toney, will be in Pacquiao's corner again today.

At 25, Pacquiao, the GenSan Brawler, is near the peak of his career as he fights Barrera in a non-title fight that assures the Filipino $350,000, his biggest paycheck ever.

I see but one major weak spot in Pacquiao's armor: He is fighting as a featherweight for the first time after campaigning in the 122-lb division for so long; in fact he is currently the world's 122-lb champion. Barrera's been the king of featherweights for so long now and he has beaten the best there is in his division.

Barrera is an enigma of sorts in that he chose boxing despite the fact he was born rich. His father is in a construction business that builds movie theaters. On the side, Barrera is an executive in the film industry. It is said that Barrera would continue his law studies after he hangs up his gloves.

That could whet up Pacquiao's appetite to send Barrera to dreamland. Barrera getting knocked out real bad could trigger the Mexican's retirement, notwithstanding a rematch clause should Pacquiao win. A rematch would next net Pacquiao a whopping $750,000.

But rematch or no rematch, a knockout win today for the no-college-for-me Pacquiao would earn him his niche in boxing history. In the simplest of terms, Barrera is his ticket to fame and fortune.

***

FASTBREAK. Sam Esguerra, the pride of Binmaley, Pangasinan, will unfurl his durable Architects Golf Classic tomorrow at Eagle Ridge. As usual, Sam has lots of prizes and surprises in store for the participants. Here's to consistent quality leadership that Uncle Sam had been dishing out for nearly two decades now.

Ubix-Riviera golfest lures huge field

THE UBIX-RIVIERA National Pro-Am is being swamped with entries that organizers had to enforce strict rules on accepting participants for the event set Nov. 18-22 at Riviera's Langer Course in Silang, Cavite.

"No doubt that the prestige of the Ubix-Riviera tournament, modesty aside, has reached superstar status so that we cannot blame the upsurge of participants to our event," said chief patron Bert Bravo, who has been bankrolling the affair since 2001 through his flagship U-Bix Corporation.

BRAVO

In keeping with the times and by way of addressing the economic crunch, Bravo has upped the total purse to P1.2 million, with the winning pro pocketing P165,840 and his amateur partner P41,460 in kind.

Bravo, who has staged other similar big tournaments to include one Philippine Open, will hit the ceremonial ball on Nov. 18 for the Celebrity Pro-Am that will stake a Toyota Vios as a hole-in-one prize.

He will be joined by NGAP president Rod V. Feliciano, Riviera chair Cesar Jayme, NGAP secretary general Benny Gopez and Riviera president Comm. Danny Pizarro (ret.) in the much-admired tournament that will also stake the Revo VX200, courtesy of Toyota Motor Philippines' Danny Isla, during the tournament proper.

Among those invited by Bravo to grace the awarding ceremonies on Nov. 22 are Konica Minolta representatives from Japan Ms Kahori Hisano, Tadayoshi Yamada and Toshiyuki Yamada, and U-Bix president /COO Vida Ty in the event sponsored by Epson, S-Yard, Pivo Praha, Grappa's, U-Bix Konica, Caffe Appassionato, U-Bix Riso, Nike Golf (Pacsports), DHL Worldwide Express/WWW Express, Airlift Asia, Esapsa, Pagcor, PNOC, San Miguel Corporation, Petron Corporation, Okamura office furniture, Citgo and Toyota Motor Philippines.

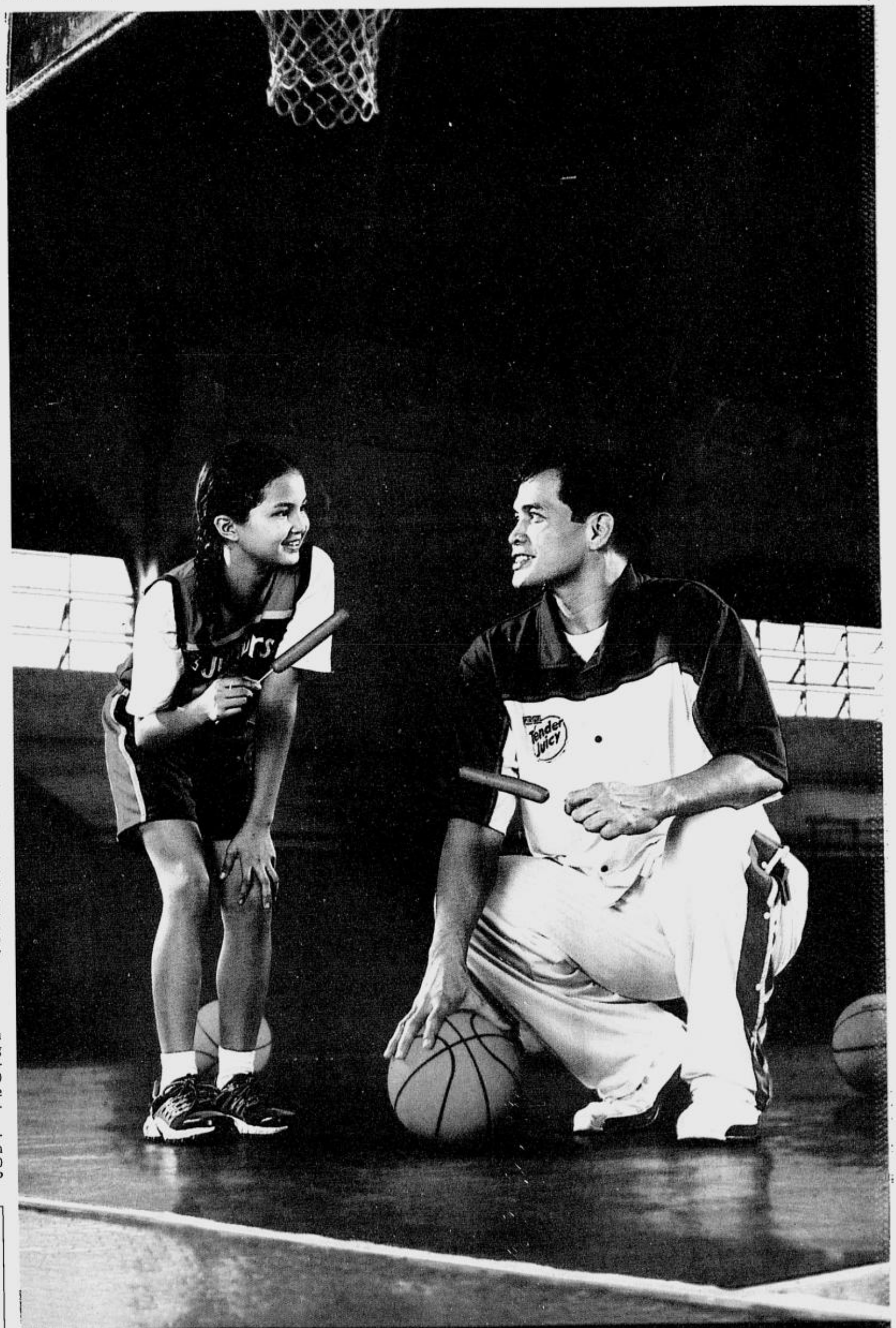
Brothers Raul and Paul Miñoza will defend their crown against a clutch of youth-laden tandems, including Marlon Dizon and Bones Floro, Gerard Cantada and JR Tanpinco, Jun Cedo and Juami Rocha, in the 50-team field that also include Juanito and Juvic Pagunsan, Rey Pagunsan and Rico Javier, Rodrigo Cuello and Rudy Amata, Richard Sinfuego and Bobby Inigo, and Roger Cabajar and Fredivic Baligasa.

Annika ahead

SINGAPORE—Women's World No. 1 Annika Sorenstam defeated three men — including 2001 U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen — to lead on the opening day of the US$180,000 Tiger Skins exhibition tournament at the Tanah Merah Golf and Country Club Saturday.

Sorenstam's two skins on the par-five 451-meter (504-yard) 2nd and the par-3 182m (199-yard) 5th hole were worth US$5,000 and US$15,000 respectively. *AP*

F1 DRIVER
Mild Seven-Renault Formula One driver Allan McNish of Scotland flashes the No. 1 sign upon his arrival Friday. McNish is here for the conclusion of the Mild Seven "Slipstream" F1 raffle promo on Nov. 15 at the North Parking of The Fort. ROGER MARGALLO



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Victorino, Arcilla, Abadia whip rivals in PCA Open

JOSEPH Victorino, displaying the form that enabled him to win the title last year, swamped La Salle's Yannick Guba, 6-2, 6-0, yesterday to enter the second round of the P400,000 Philippine Columbian Association Open Tennis Championships at the PCA indoor courts in Plaza Dilao.

Victorino, seeded only fourth this time, will next face the winner between Ricky Catito and Joseph Arcilla.

Also advancing were second seed and 2002 runner-up Johnny Arcilla, fifth seed Adelo Abadia and sixth seed Rolando Ruel Jr.

Arcilla, silver medalist in the Afro-Asian Games early this month, clipped Pius Ocampo, 6-3, 6-4.

Abadia, who will compete in the Vietnam SEA Games next month, defeated 2002 US Orange Bowl 14-under campaigner Kyle Dandan, 6-2, 7-5, while Ruel demolished Ferdinand Saraza, 6-1, 6-2.

Former RP Davis Cup team member Michael Misa, La Salle coach Roland Kraut and national coach Cris Cuarto posted contrasting victories to also gain second-round berths in this event offering P80,000 to the champion.

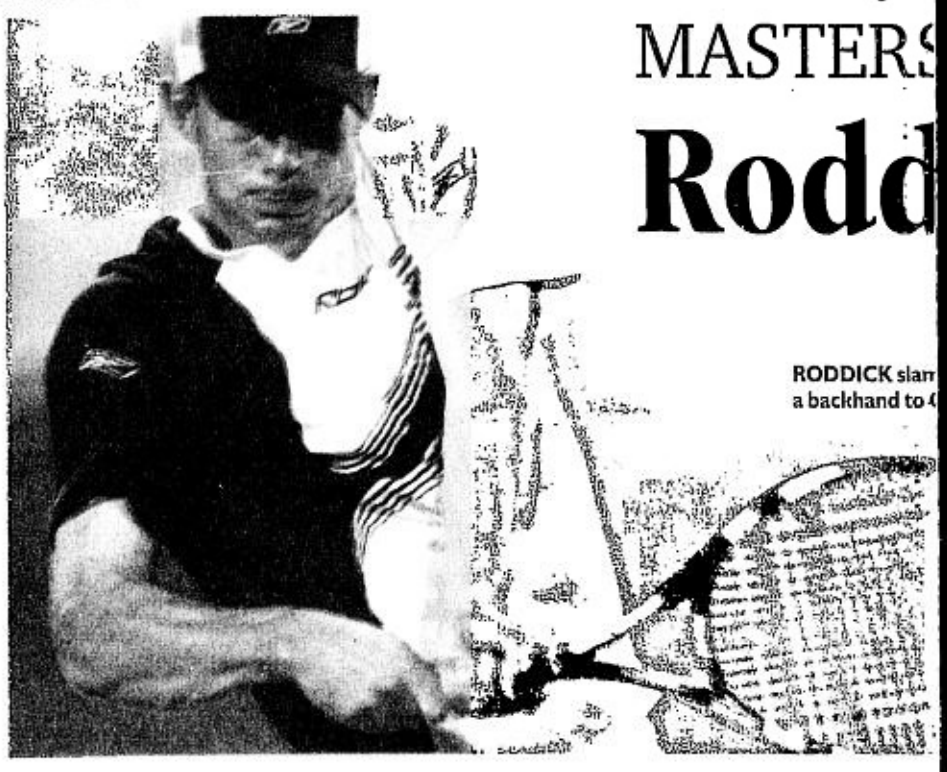
Misa downed qualifier Edu Manzano, 7-6 (5), 6-2, to advance against wild card Fritzgerald Tabura, who prevailed over seventh seed Korean Sung Hoon Lee, 2-6, 6-2, 2-0 (ret).

Kraut rallied past Stephen Pilares, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-3, to advance against the winner between No. 13 Jesse Lapore and Mario Sabas.

Cuarto beat wild card Julius Kraut, 6-1, 7-5, to advance against top seed Korean Hee-Seok Chung, who breezed past junior Miguel Narvaez, 6-0, 6-1.

Third seed Korean Seung-Hoon Oh blasted Gilbert Estrada, 6-0, 6-0 and No. 8 Korean Eui-Hyun Chung whipped qualifier Nante de Castro, 6-2, 6-0, to also earn second-round berths in this event presented by Dunlop and sponsored by Diadora, PLDT, Copacabana, Coca-Cola, Procter and Gamble Philippines, Stronghold, San Miguel Corp., PVL Restaurant and Little Lawrence Inc.

Other winners were qualifier Michael Tenorio over Karl Santamaria, 6-4, 7-5, Adonis Lominoque over Randy Villanueva, 6-3, 5-0 (ret.), Ralph Kevin Barte over Leo Laping, 6-2, 2-6, 6-2, and Jandrick de Castro over Gino Bautista, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.



MASTERS

Rodd

RODDICK slam
a backhand to

O'NEAL prepares to shoot after driving past Detroit Pistons' Tremaine Fowlkes. REUTERS

Pacers rout Sonics; LA Lakers win

INDIANAPOLIS—Jeff Foster had 19 points and 12 rebounds and Ron Artest shut down Rashard Lewis, leading the Indiana Pacers to a 101-78 win over the Seattle SuperSonics on Friday night.

Foster's previous career-high of 17 came exactly two years earlier against Boston. His willingness to run the floor and hustle down rebounds created easy scoring opportunities for the Pacers as they handed Seattle its second loss of the season.

Foster was one of six Indiana players to score in double figures. Artest and Jermaine O'Neal scored 16 apiece, with Al Harrington adding 13 off the bench.

Artest did a masterful job defending Lewis, who entered the game as the NBA's third-leading scorer. Lewis, already the object of frequent double-teams this year, was held to 12 points on 5-of-16 shooting.

In Boston, Paul Pierce scored 19 points and Vin Baker had 13 points with 11 rebounds as Boston sent Cleveland to its 27th consecutive road loss with a 91-82 win.

LeBron James scored 10 points on 3-for-12 shooting in his first regular-season game at the home of the NBA's most successful franchise.

In Los Angeles, Shaquille O'Neal scored 21 points, including a pair of clutch freethrows late in the game, and added 15 rebounds and eight assists as the Lakers downed the Detroit Pistons, 94-89.

Gary Payton also had 21 points, and Kobe Bryant and Karl Malone scored 16 each. Malone, playing despite a sore left hamstring, also had nine rebounds.

The victory was the Lakers' 19th in a row at home stretching back to last February, their longest such streak since they won 24 straight on their court during the 1987-88 to 1988-89 seasons. *AP*

Complete results:

Boston 91, Cleveland 82; Indiana 101, Seattle 78; Miami 105, Washington 101 (OT); New Jersey 85, New York 80; Utah 85, Minnesota 77; Philadelphia 100, San Antonio 96; Houston 90, Phoenix 85; Sacramento 94, Toronto 64; Denver 106, Orlando 101; LA Clippers 104, Golden State 98; LA Lakers 94, Detroit 89.

RALLYCROSS BET

Kenneth Dominado, driving his Toyota Levin, won second place in the NRC 19 category during last Saturday's Ultron National Rallycross Series at the Clark Ecozone, Pampanga. Dominado currently holds the second spot in the NRC 19 division.

Passion

PREVIA

RAV4

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S:CUP

ick clips Coria, gains semis

oria.
AFP

HOUSTON—Andy Roddick was being outplayed, outhustled and even outserved by Guillermo Coria.

Then, suddenly, Roddick summoned up all the skills and grit that made him No. 1.

Down a break in the final set and reeling a bit, Roddick went on a 10-point run to grab the upper hand and pull away for a 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-3 victory Friday night that put him in the Tennis Masters Cup semifinals.

Roddick went 2-1 in round-robin action and advanced to a semifinal against Wimbledon champion Roger Federer (3-0). Coria (1-2) was eliminated.

Federer downed French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero, 6-3, 6-1.

The other semifinal Saturday will pit No. 5 Andre Agassi against No. 6 Rainer Schuettler, the man he beat in the Australian Open final. Already assured of advancing, Schuettler lost his last round-robin match, 7-5, 6-4, Friday to Carlos Moya.

The fourth-ranked Coria played nearly flawless tennis in the second set and the early part of the third, which he led 3-1. But Roddick won the final five games of the match with some spectacular play—and with some help from his Argentine opponent.

Coria was up 3-2, 40-love when he missed five consecutive forehands to get broken. Roddick won the next five points, too, including holding at love for a 4-3 edge with the help of a 136-mph service winner.

His serve working much better than it did in the middle portion of the match, Roddick cruised at the end, closing the match with back-to-back aces.

Coria had won the prematch coin toss and chose to let Roddick serve first, as if to say, "Bring it on!"

Coria did return very well for stretches, and Roddick's serve wasn't its best: Among other problems, he double-faulted to hand over the second-set tiebreaker. During the changeover, Roddick chopped his racket into his bag a half-dozen times.

That tiebreaker featured the point of the tournament, a lengthy exchange that finished this way: Coria hit a great reflex lob; Roddick chased it down and, with his back to the net, smacked a shot through his legs; Coria lofted another lob; Roddick pounded an overhead; Coria got to it and delivered a passing shot that Roddick volleyed into the net.

Roddick finished with 12 aces and a total of 38 winners—13 more than Coria—in a riveting match. *AP*

IMMELMAN (left) and Sabbatini line up a putt on the 18th green. AFP

S. Africans lead W. Cup by 2 strokes

KIAWAH ISLAND, South Carolina—South Africa's Trevor Immelman and Rory Sabbatini combined to shoot a 3-under-par 69 Friday to take a two-stroke lead after the second round of the World Cup.

Immelman and Sabbatini were at 5 under, two strokes ahead of Americans Jim Furyk and Justin Leonard and the French team of Thomas Levet and Raphael Jacquelin.

Furyk and Leonard shot a 70 on The Ocean Course for a 3 under total, while Levet and Jacquelin carded a par 72.

There were only three sub-par rounds in the alternate stroke round of the World Golf Championships event on a clear, cool day. The breeze was light, unlike Thursday when strong gusts buffeted the 7,296-yard, ocean-front Pete Dye layout.

"We played real solid all day and putted well, too," said Immelman, whose best PGA Tour finish was a tie for ninth at this year's NEC Invitational. "All in all, it was probably one of the best rounds I have played all year."

Furyk and Leonard missed several short putts, including a 2-footer at No. 8 and a 4-footer at the 11th, but finished with three birdies and a bogey. *AP*

Trent Jones course up in Calamba

THE AYALA Greenfield Estate golf course in Calamba, Laguna, will be memorable for its challenge, pleasurable in its variety and unique in its setting.

These are the attributes that will distinguish the all-weather course fast shaping up at the foot of Mt. Makiling, according to its famous architect, American Robert Trent Jones Jr.

The son of legendary golf course builder Robert Trent Jones Sr. recently checked on the progress of work at what will be the jewel of all amenities at the Ayala Greenfield Estates being developed jointly into a residential-recreational paradise by Ayala Land Inc. and Greenfield Development Corp.

"It will be a golf course that will challenge the minds of golfers but at the same time allow them to share the excitement of the game with their families," said Bobby Jones of his latest project in the country.

While providing a stiff test for low handicappers, Bobby Jones said the course also offers to weekend golfers and beginners the simple pleasure of leisurely playing amid the wooded slopes and gentle breeze of Mt. Makiling.

"Ayala Greenfield Estate is a family golf course. It is a beautiful place. I hope everyone can come and see the beauty of the place and, yes, enjoy a round of golf," added the globe-trotting golf course designer.

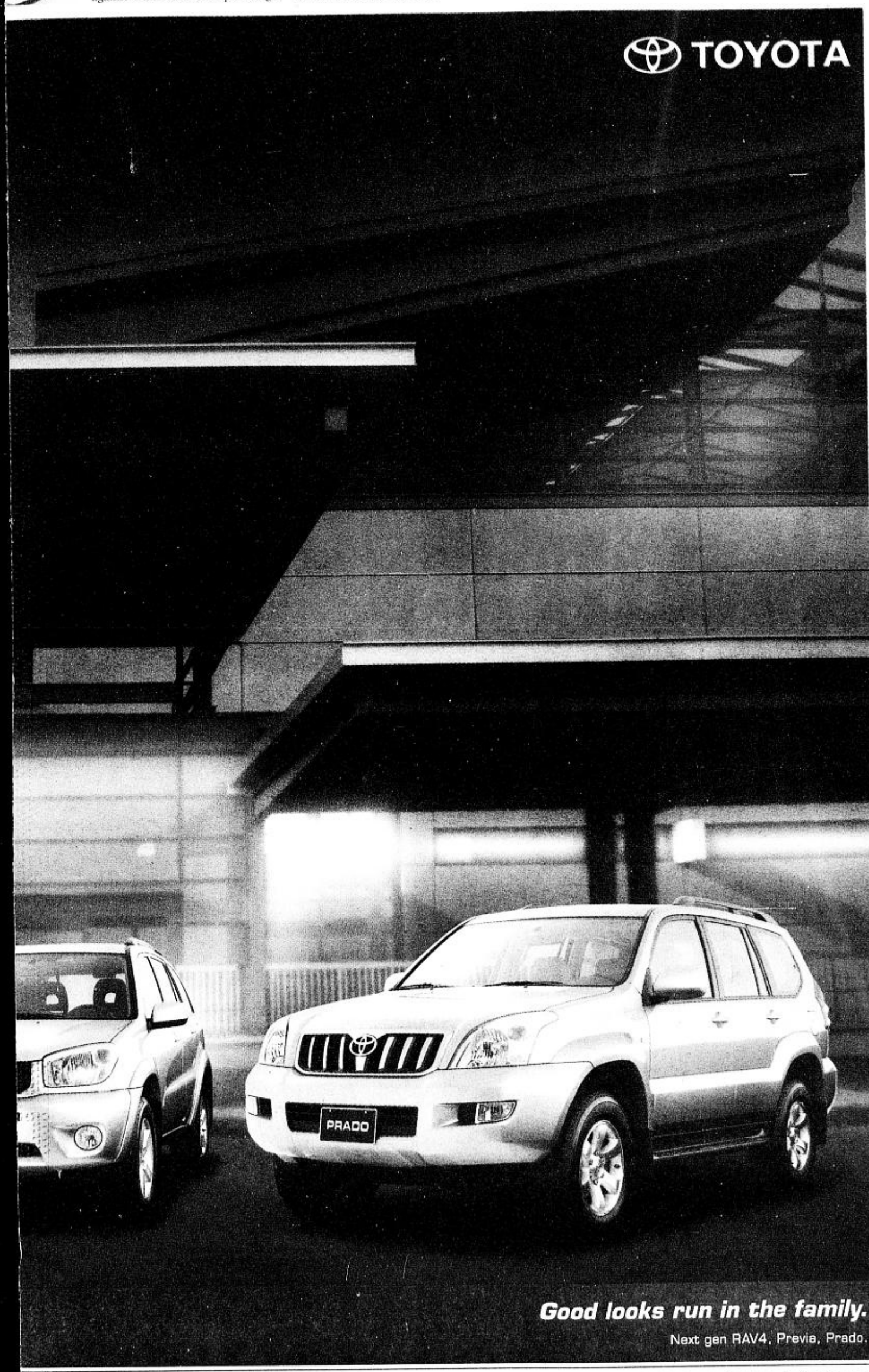
Crafting a gem of a course was a prime consideration to bolster AGE's claim as the country's only true golf community because a golf share comes with ownership of a lot at the 500-hectare development site which offers a breathtaking balcony view of Laguna de Bay.

"This is the first time that a golf share is being given free to lot owners," explained Jun Bisnar, Ayala Land Inc. assistant vice president.

"The concept, just like in the US, is if you buy a lot in Ayala Greenfield Estates, you're automatically entitled to one golf share as long as you pay the activation fee. You don't have to pay millions for the golf share, you just activate the share," Bisnar added.

For the serious golfer, Bobby Jones emphasized that strategic play more than brute force will be crucial in mastering the course that is expected to be finished late next year and will be playable in the first quarter of 2005.

The front nine of the par-72 course features an unhampered view of the forested slopes of Mt. Makiling with Tagaytay Ridge visible in the background on some holes.



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PRESIDENTIAL GOLD CUP

Free Wind heads field

FREE Wind will be back to defend his title in the 2003 Presidential Gold Cup on Dec. 14 at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

Eleven other noted gallopers are competing in the 31st edition of the event considered as the country's most prestigious race.

The highlight racing event's main honoree, President Macapagal Arroyo, is expected to present the awards to the winning connections.

Free Wind won last year's edition, denying Wind Blown a historic third straight victory.

Winner of the race will receive a guaranteed purse of P1.5 million, with P500,000, P250,000, and P125,000 alloted to the second to fourth placers, respectively.

Completing this year's cast are Diktador, Golden Ballet, High Octane, Lyonnais, Material Maker, Mica's Magic, Perfect Storm, Red Star Rising, Silver Story, Success Story and West Bound.

The annual PCSO Presidential Gold Cup is an open weight-for-age championship exclusive to locally-bred or island-born horses. It will be disputed over a distance of 2,000 meters.

For being last year's winner, Free Wind parades to the starting post with a top weight of 59 kg, 3 kg heavier than the rest of the field. However, the multiple stakes winner 4-year-old colt will be in a position to score back-to-back cup victories and mirror the earlier feats of Fair And Square, Sun Dancer, Bulldozer and Wind Blown.

GOLDEN Ballet (right): Strong PGC contender. PDI PHOTO

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Fair Go 2. Golden Prince 3. Maging Matalino
Race 2--1. D'Barrister 2. Long Road 3. may's Magic 4. Golden Figure 5. Bring Home D Bacon
Race 3--1. Reign of Roses 2. Dynamic Jason 3. Ground Wave 4. Sakura Ijhay
Race 4--1. Silver Music 2. Hurry King 3. Material Trick 4. Special Science
Race 5--1. Aprey's Choice 2. Gentleman's Lady 3. Pro Bono 4. Trick Shot
Race 6--1. Material Maker 2. Mica's Magic 3. Baggirl 4. District Three 5. You Know That 6. Kayang Kaya
Race 7--1. Socialize 2. Classy Babe 3. Come in Glory
Race 8--1. Silakbo 2. Prince of Africa 3. Island Lord 4. Gifted Angel 5. Cue Artist
Race 9--1. Queen of Gaia 2. Alexis Magic 3. Prickly Heat/Day and Night 4. Overture
Race 10--1. Solid North 2. Piper Gee 3. Play's the Thing 4. Sweet Serenade 5. Pia Monte
Race 11--1. Master Professor 2. Star Sapphire 3. Fancy Free 4. Master Kenneth 5. Top Dancer
Race 12--1. Noor 2. Bunker Buster 3. Little Sam 4. Hellosilvergirl
Race 13--1. Real Diamond 2. Spinning Bullet 3. Mister Cool/Powerhouse 4. Divine Diva 5. Our Hope 6. Cherry Lane

Breeder of the year race heats up

THE LGBA Breeder of the Year 2003 winner will finally be known when the fourth and final leg of "LGBA 7—Stag Derby" unfolds at the Roligon Mega Cockpit this coming Tuesday and Thursday (November 18 and 20).

Sponsors are Washout Shampoo, Pitfighter Feeds, Enertone, Derby Ace, Amtyl 500, Supremo Pellets and Strike Power Pellets.

Recent champions of LGBA derbies were Mauro Prieto's Anito (first leg); Benjie Lim and Justice Magdangal Elma's Banahaw II (second leg) and Blandy Tolentino's San Pablo Heat (third leg).

Tolentino currently leads the pack in the overall standings with 18 big points followed by Prieto with 16.5 points.

LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz said the Breeder of the Year will receive a trophy and juicy cash prize courtesy of well-known promoter Rolly Ligon.

For other inquiries, contact 833-2275 and 833-1638.

Training seminar

THE SCIENTIFIC Sports and Fitness Council (SSFC) of the Philippines, an elite group of internationally trained sports and fitness scientists, in coordination with the National Athletic Training and Fitness Academy, will be conducting a Certification Course on Athletic Training (Level 1) this month. The clinic is headed by Jose Jimbo Saret (M.S. Athletic Training, Brigham Young University, USA) and Luigi Bercades (M.S. Exercise Physiology, University of Oregon, USA). Batch 1 will be held Nov. 29-30 and Dec. 6-7 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Batch 2 will be on Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13 and 14, also from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. For details, call 920-1099.

Where *kareristas* belong

ONE WINNER
Edwin Villanueva

AFTER the smashing success of the 4th Mitra Cup comes the 8th running of the RP Breeders' Cup.

Generally considered as the second part of the hugely popular Philtobo-Marho championships, the Breeders' Cup is where the country's best gallopers clash in various divisions just like the rich American racing spectacle from which it was patterned.

So what the *bayang karerista* wants is the very same lineup in the Mitra Cup running again for fame and glory in the Breeders' Cup.

But there won't be an Imports race, we understand, and some of those who scored big in the Mitra Cup are unfortunately not joining this coming weekend's hostilities.

One of them, Mitra Cup Juvenile Fillies winner I Love This Game, was reportedly barred from being entered in the Breeders' Cup for reasons my Silip Boy is now trying to find out.

One thing we're sure though, is that Wind Blown is running again in the Classic for his third comeback run.

This early, *kareristas* are already looking forward to see Wind Blown in the flesh again at Santa Ana, not at the "wa-class" Carmona racetrack where traffic going to and fro has always been a nightmare to racing buffs.

You see, Santa Ana is located "just within *kareristas' reach*" as my Silip Boy would term it, making it the best place to be for racing here.

Last Sunday, a whopping P43-million plus in sales was recorded at the popular Makati racing venue, thanks largely to the drawing power of Wind Blown.

We're also crediting the presence of other noted gallopers who ran in the Mitra Cup and the wonderful program assembled by the solid, well-organized Philtobo group but as they say, Wind Blown is Wind Blown.

When he made his comeback race and won it last Oct. 26 at Santa Ana, Philippine racing became alive again.

When he won the Philtobo Classic with aplomb last Nov. 9, every racing fan shouted, "Wind Blown *pa rin*," again.

You may miss today's races (that's alright because the lineup is lousy anyway) but never, never be absent on Nov. 23.

"The King" of Philippine racing is raring to notch another victory—only at the Santa Ana Park—where the *bayang karerista* belongs.

***

Expect another mammoth crowd at Santa Ana on Sunday.

Most racing fans, my Silip Boy said, are going there to conjure up ideas in connection with Hermie Esguerra's poem writing "*pa*-contest" regarding his well-loved champion galloper.

Hermie is putting up juicy prizes (P5,000 each) to the top five placers, besides of course another bonus (P5,000) to the one who'll be judged as overall winner.

The winning poems would be read when Wind Blown runs his farewell race, probably in the BC Classic next week or Presidential Gold Cup next month.

It can be recalled that Hermie also sponsored a contest involving 12 of his gallopers a few years back. Practically all racing fans joined and it was a big hit.

This year, officers of the WHIP will act as judges. *Sali na!*

***

E-mail One Winner at evillanueva@inquirer.com.ph or edongvilla@yahoo.com

PHILIPPINE TOURISM CUP
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2003

ALL SET FOR
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The Philippine Tourism Cup (PTC) now gears up for its National Championship to be held on 12 December 2003 at Club Intramuros.

As a culminating activity of the year-round series of golf tournaments conducted on a regional level, the event promises to be the most exciting and much awaited by participating golfers nationwide as they vie with their wits and skills to win the much coveted awards.

The prestigious event will be graced by well known personalities and celebrities.

List of Contenders

Regions	MEN'S DIVISION			LADIES DIVISION	
	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class A	Class B
NCR	**Villamor** 1. Mr. Mannix Bautista 2. Mr. Laurence Negrido 3. Mr. Ramos Heredia 4. Ssgt. Dong Bobis	**Villamor** 1. Dan Ferreras 2. Lester Majarucon 3. Louie Wong 4. Nards Calderon	**Villamor** 1. Jonathan de Leon 2. Elmer Geconcillo 3. Vic Dominguez 4. Darwin Zafra	**Villamor** 1. Ms. Cynthia Dayrit 2. Ms. Jo Barredo 3. Ms. Marissa Romano	**Villamor** 1. Ms. Nancy Tsay 2. Ms. Ting Yupangco 3. Ms. Adette Puzon 4. Ms. Amelou Julnio
IV	**Riviera** 1. Bobby Celestino 2. Popie Paguia 3. Paul Salvador 4. Ed Kalaw	**Sta. Elena** 1. Butch Garrucho 2. Bonnie Vergel de Dios 3. Lino Topacio	**Malarayat** 1. Victor Esguerra 2. Rector Bolado 3. Ray Molinyawe 4. Salvador Cabrera	**Riviera** 1. Remijin Camping 2. Arlette Dizon 3. Beng Ibo 4. Beth Menchavez	**Sta. Elena** 1. Tami Leung 2. Fely Lopez 3. Marilen Bantug 4. Mary Ann Colayco
V	**NONE**	1. Mr. E. Tormes 2. Mr. Roger Lim 3. Mr. Toshimi Hiroma 4. Mr. Minuro Morita	1. Mr. Cesar Sarmiento 2. Mr. Eddie Lim 3. Mr. Roger Torres 4. Mr. Moises	**NONE**	**NONE**
VI	**Fairways & Blue Water** 1. Peewee Aguirre 2. Dodo Chua 3. Geb Bilbao 4. Mark Riviera	**IGCCI** 1. Eddie Tanena 2. Orlando Robles 3. Tony Rosado 4. Edwin Delicana	**MARAPARA** 1. Jess Arlegui 2. Tony Silloriquez 3. Archie del Rosario 4. Andy Sibayan	**MARAPARA** 1. Gaby Monfort 2. Joanne Reyes 3. Gigi Frokjaer 4. Jhay Montelibano	**Fairways & Blue Water** 1. Kristine Delicana 2. Helen Stummer 3. Tina Ita-as 4. Ann Zaragoza
IX	1. Jojo Fernando 2. Anthony Fernando 3. Danny Cordero 4. Ric Limbago	1. Danny Nuevo 2. Cesar Gonzales 3. Tony Kong 4. Gil Lim	1. Tony Calabria 2. Satari Edding 3. Bebot Mendoza 4. Jovy Mendoza	1. Jean Atilano 2. Esther Orendain 3. Erlina Wee 4. Mona Lisa Arpa	**NONE**
X	**Camp Evangelista** 1. Roland Abrina 2. Joe Demosta 3. Rudy Litang 4. Boboy Noble	**Del Monte Golf & CC** 1. Dingdong Woo 2. Lino Aparre 3. Meloy Cubillo	**Del Monte Golf & CC** 1. Jun Mostrales 2. Bong Ricacho 3. Cris Torayno		

Some of the participants of the Philippine Tourism Cup-Region V Tournament held at Villmor Golf Club, Sept. 26, 2003 (left to right) Roger Torres, Art Basig, Efren Tormes, Ben Talan, Salvador "Buddy" Regalado, Catanduanes V-Gov. Cesar Sarmiento, Jorge Macenas, Angel Racoma, Naz Racoma

DGM Jose Dion of PTC with winners and participants of the Philippine Tourism Cup Tournament for Region V (left to right) Roger Torres, Art Basig, Efren Tormes, Ben Talan, Salvador "Buddy" Regalado, Tournament Organizer, Catanduanes V-Gov. Cesar Sarmiento, Jorge Macenas, Angel Racoma, Naz Racoma. The tournament was held at the Villamor Golf Club Sept. 26, 2003

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

Nov.22 Leyte Golf & CC R-8 Qualifying & Regional
Dec. 12 Club Intramuros Golf Course National Championship

Note: In view of some conflict with the Legenda Cup golf tournament, PTC Region III Qualifying and Regional Tournament slated on 29 November at the Subic Bay Golf & CC is cancelled.

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM PHILIPPINES
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8 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

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4 THE RUNDOWN
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8 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

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3 MY FIRST ROMANCE
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2 MAPANUKSO
3 LIBERATED
4 MY FIRST ROMANCE

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5 MY FIRST ROMANCE
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8 INNER SENSES

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4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5 DARK BLUE
6 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
7 MAPANUKSO
8 IDENTITY
9 MY FIRST ROMANCE
10 THE WISHER
11 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
12 LIBERATED

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5 DARK BLUE 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55
6 IDENTITY 11:25, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50
7 MY FIRST ROMANCE 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
8 LIBERATED 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
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4 DARK BLUE - 11:15, 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:00
5 WISHER - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
6 WRONG TURN - 10:40, 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:30, 10:00
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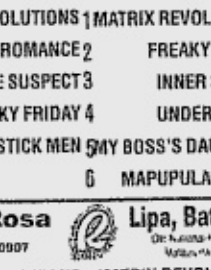

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Valdez rules qualifying race

CUENCA, Batangas—Samsung rider Rodelio Valdez ruled the first leg of the qualifying race for the Tour Pilipinas 2004, which started and ended in front of the Cuenca Municipal Hall here. The 23-year-old Valdez, younger brother of colorful rider Placido, finished the 190-kilometer massed start race in four hours, 57 minutes and 34.95 seconds.

Sunday SPORTS

Floro tops Mabuhay Miles anew

DASMARIÑAS, Cavite—Valeriano "Bones" Floro dominated an elite field of 244 business executives and frequent flyers to win his third straight Mabuhay Miles Elite Invitational golf tournament Friday at the Orchard Golf & Country Club. The 32-year-old Floro put on a show at the Palmer Course by firing five birdies en route to a sparkling six-under-par 66 that bagged him the low gross title by six strokes over Santiago Santos, Jr.

Delasin, Han share lead in T of C

MOBILE, Alabama—Hee-Won Han and Dorothy Delasin shot 1-under-par 71s to share the lead Friday after the second round of the LPGA Tournament of Champions.

The high winds of a day earlier subsided, but conditions remained difficult because the greens were firmer and faster, leaving only the co-leaders under par after 36 holes at Magnolia Grove's Crossings.

Han and Delasin have 36-hole totals of 143, a stroke better than Lorie Kane and Mi Hyun Kim. Kane shot a 74 after an opening round of 70. Kim, battling a sore neck and back, came in with a 68 — the low score of the tournament by two shots.

"The greens are just really firm and fast, so it's just kind of hard to judge if the club in your hand is going to bite or release," Delasin said. "You have a lot of downhill putts that you can't be aggressive with so you just tap it to the hole, two-putt and get out of there.

"The wind wasn't blowing, but it was playing just as tough as it did yesterday. It's good because you have to bring your best golf out there."

Delasin is trying to play her way into the top 30 on the money list and qualify for next week's season-ending Tour Championship in West Palm Beach, Florida. She is No. 33 on the money list and needs to finish fourth or better to make the top 30.

"I can't get too excited," Delasin said. "We've still got two more rounds of golf, so I'm just going to go out there and play my hardest. Either way, my plane fare is going to be pretty expensive unless I can sweet-talk somebody into a lower price."

Delasin moved into a share of the lead by making birdies on three of the last five holes. She hit an 8-iron five feet from the pin at the par-4 14th, then two-putted for another birdie on the par-5 16th.

She followed that with a 7-iron to five feet on the par-3 17th to join Han under par. Han also birdied the 17th to go under par, hitting a 5-iron five feet from the flag. *AP*

DELASIN

Que, Zarate 7 shots off

SHANGHAI—Zhang Lianwei posted a two-shot lead in the $500,000 Volvo China Open after a third round three-under-par 69 Saturday. The Chinese star moved ahead of Australian Unho Park, who shot the day's best 67. Filipino Angelo Que shot 72 and was seven shots off Zhang at 212 in a tie with compatriot Danny Zarate (74) and Australian David Gleeson(75). *AFP*

From high octane to high octave.

MARIAH CAREY

Charmbracelet 2003 World Tour
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PETRON BLAZE

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Sevilla, Juvic advance

JUVIC Pagunsan proved too much in the championship division, while Joy Sevilla topped the ladies Class B to share the limelight during the recent Samsung Amateur Tour at the par-69 Camp John Hay course.

Sevilla turned back Leonor Lopez in a sudden-death playoff to advance to the national finals of the Samsung Tour like the multititled Pagunsan and three other leg winners.

Sevilla scored 85-83 for 168 which Lopez matched with her 87-81.

Marciano Garcia and Doming Paglinawan also posted close wins in Class A and Class C, respectively, while Bob Peterson's steady play made him the runaway winner in Class B.

The 36-hole event is the sixth leg of the nationwide series for players of various handicap levels sponsored by Samsung. It is also backed by Tokyo Tokyo, Microtel, Gatorade, Rogin-E, Dunlop Golf, Mario's Restaurant, Custom Clubmakers and Wilson with radio stations Killer-Bee, Citylite 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K-Lite as media partners.

Sevilla and Pagunsan, who topped the stroke play event with a superb 11-under effort on rounds of 63-64, both achieved a double victory when they joined the qualifiers in the accompanying Samsung Putting Challenge. Ruperto Zaragosa (junior), Nelson Eslao (senior) and Bill Lawrence (men).

"Aside from the cold weather, the field really enjoyed putting on the sleek Bent grass greens of John Hay and the big number of entries from other cities is a proof of the Baguio charm," said Boy Blue Ocampo of the organizing Professional Sports Management Group.

Ocampo said that the next leg will be hosted by Eastridge with the final qualifying leg set at Tagaytay Midlands.

Garcia (68-76-144) survived a big charge by Goody Ignacio (77-68-145) to win by one with Eslao claiming third 77-71-148. Paglinawan, meanwhile, rode on a closing 77 to beat Bob Legaspi (83-160) by three with a 157 total.

Pump up the volume.

MANDY MOORE

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2003

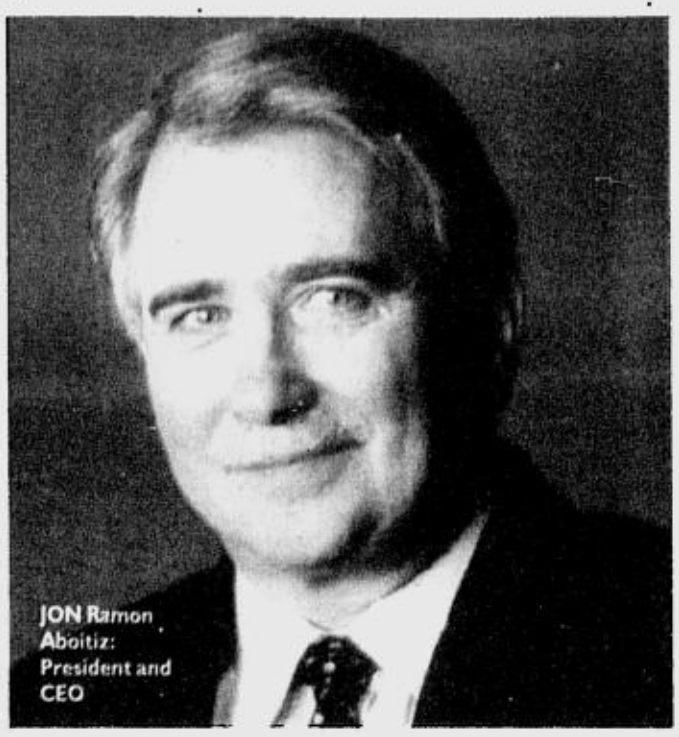
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday BIZ

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

'No lineage dictates who gets to sit as president'


JON Ramon Aboitiz: President and CEO

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE STORY of the Aboitiz & Company started over 130 years ago with a poor Spaniard taking a ship and seeking his fortune elsewhere. He landed in the Philippines.

Today, the group's business portfolio encompasses power distribution and generation, banking, food, transportation and logistics, real estate development, ship building, construction and industrial trading.

The great grandfather of Jon Ramon Aboitiz, president and CEO of the firm, was Paulino Aboitiz, the youngest of a poor family of sheep herders in a small town north of Spain.

In the 1870s, the Basque youth took a ship out and landed in Ormoc. Paulino started piloting a sailboat for a small-time Spaniard trader married to a Leyte lass. The mariner eventually married his boss' daughter.

He helped his father-in-law build the trading business in abaca, sardines, cooking oil and other products, Paulino and his wife had nine kids. One of them, the grandfather of Jon Ramon, bought the family's first ship in 1907.

In the 1930s, the group entered the power business, and at one point had power plants in places such as Jolo and Cotabato. The group tried out banking in 1964, left it after a while, and then came back with what is now Union Bank of the Philippines.

Jon Ramon, together with his cousin, Erramon Aboitiz, joined the INQUIRER business staff for dinner recently and they recounted how the

PAULINO Aboitiz, founder of the Aboitiz Group.

family got to where it is today.

Jon Ramon says at present, 17 fourth-generation members of the Aboitiz family work in the group in various capacities although Jon Ramon estimates there are 400 of them all over the world.

Genteel side

Amid the light speed of doing business in the 21st century is a genteel side to the enterprise. The third generation, while long since retired, continues to play "elders" when it comes to key decision-making. There is no set rule on who gets to call the shots, no lineage that dictates who gets to sit as president.

The Aboitiz family believes that they are professionals in every sense of the word, and that no family member has a right to a job. Ownership does not determine position. Everyone must go through the ranks and must compete with each other, including unrelated professionals.

Ascendancy or leadership is decided by merit and based on consensus rather than voting. "There was an older family member who was ahead of me but I jumped him. It is basically through merit. It's also important that the leader be accepted by his peers," Jon Ramon says.

Had to prove himself

From the start, Jon Ramon had to prove himself. Coming home straight out of college in the United States, he went to see his grandfather who dismissed him as being useless for not being able to converse in Chinese.

Yet, he was determined to work his way up. One of the first jobs assigned to him by his grandfather was to inspect toilets in the company's ships to make sure these were clean and in order, something that he still does at times.

Going public

Under his leadership, the Aboitiz Group decided to go public in 1994. "We felt it would add value to us. If you want to grow, you have to lift the limits on your investments," he says.

Thus, Aboitiz Equity Ventures became the publicly listed holding and investment management company of the group, with Jon Ramon at the helm as president and CEO. It was a boon for the company and its subsidiaries because of its strong showing at the onset of the Asian financial crisis.

Investors' choice

Finance Asia magazine recognized AEV in 1998 as one of the strongest companies most likely to withstand the crisis. The following year, AsiaMoney magazine cited it as the investor's choice in the country and Euromoney magazine recognized it as one of Asia's best companies in the area of utilities. In 2000, Finance Asia cited the firm as one of Asia's best performing companies. In the 2002 polls for Euromoney's Asia's best companies and AsiaMoney's best-managed companies, AEV ranked No. 2 for best small company.

The group employs 16,000 direct and indirect employees and

ERRAMON Abotiz heads the Aboitiz Equity Ventures

count assets worth approximately P30 billion.

Never too busy

Now 55, Jon Ramon begins his day early at the office checking his e-mails, attending meetings and doing other tasks. But he's never too busy to spend his lunch break with his family, unless he is out of town. Ten to 14 hour-days and yes, even Saturdays and Sundays, in between commitments with employee activities make up his workweek.

Jon Ramon asserts that, of course, there are times when businesses will make mistakes and the way to succeed is to make as few mistakes as possible. In his case, he recalls one of the worst mistakes he made was having the group enter the prawn farming business at the height of the fad. He also admits that in their foray into the aircargo business, he bungled the purchase of planes. The first ones were unsuitable for the business.

Aligning interests

He believes one of the biggest challenges in any family corporation is having everyone's interests aligned. "You have to have the same way of thinking. What is very, very important is trust, and we have developed that trust. We're not only cousins, we're friends," he points out.

The values and philosophy of the Aboitizes' pioneering ancestors have remained the guiding principle of Jon Ramon and the other younger generation Aboitizes. The company mission and vision has been refined many times to keep the family in step with the changing times.

College degree, MBA

In a recent speech before a business forum organized by the Ateneo de Manila, Erramon disclosed some of the steps the family has taken to ensure sustainability of their business.

To attract the fifth generation to join the business, the family has set up summer job programs and training while the children are in high school or college. Before being allowed to work for the group, a family member must have

NO/ B5

Passion fires steam that lights up RP

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WHEN Bob Kingston, founder of New Zealand's KRTA Limited, first became involved in the geothermal exploration program in Tongonan, Southern Leyte, his dream was to find enough geothermal power to provide electricity for a small barangay school.

Little did he know that the Philippines would decades later become the second largest producer of electricity from geothermal energy, with an installed capacity of 1,905.4 megawatts, next only to the United States with 2,775 megawatts.

This awesome feat would not have been possible without the dogged determination of a group of scientists from the Philippines and New Zealand who knew that there was geothermal energy out there somewhere that could boost the country's energy resources.

The Philippines was easily identified as a source of geothermal energy because it forms part of the Pacific ring of fire, so called because of the number of active volcanoes that provide a natural heat source that could be converted into energy.

Zosimo F. Sarmiento, manager of the Reservoir and Research Management Department of PNOC-EDC, says the long, arduous journey to putting this geothermal energy into commercial use started as early as 1953 when Arturo Alcaraz, considered the Father of Philippine Geothermal Energy, got the idea of utilizing geothermal energy from visiting New Zealand geologists in a conference held in Manila in 1953.

But crude oil was cheap at that time and the Philippines was also basking in the success of the oil finds in northwest Palawan, so there was no drive to explore alternative sources of energy.

It was only in 1962 when studies to look at geothermal energy sources started in earnest following the success of similar ventures in Lardarello, Italy and in Wairakei, New Zealand.

First light bulb

BARNETT

Finally, the first electric bulb lit by earth-heat energy was lit in Tiwi, Albay on April 12, 1967 using a small turbine-generator borrowed from the Mapua Institute of Technology. This marked the turning point in the technological research and history of geothermal development in the country.

With the discovery of the Tiwi geothermal field and the signing of a development contract between the Philippines and the Union Oil of California for the latter to harness the electricity potential of the area, cooperation from other countries was urgently sought.

New Zealand responded to the call by sending in geothermal experts and scientists from its Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and Ministry of Works and Development who went with Philippine experts from the Commission on Volcanology and later on the National Power Corp., to conduct small-scale exploration and geoscientific investigations in Tongonan.

KRTA Limited was appointed in 1972 as the executing agency of the New Zealand government in the geothermal energy cooperation with the Philippines, which was part of the Sinclair Knight Merz group.

Peter Barnett, Principal of Sinclair Knight Merz Limited, said in his paper that appeared in PNOC-EDC's 25th year anniversary publication, that it was from these various entities that the technical foundations of the PNOC-Energy Development Corp. were drawn in 1976.

PNOC-EDC was formed in 1976 to accelerate the exploration of indigenous energy resources following the oil shock of 1972 that brought to the fore the danger of relying solely on imported oil for local energy needs.

THE TONGONAN geothermal plant, product of the hardship of Filipinos and New Zealanders.

The New Zealand government was already helping in these efforts by providing some NZ $13.5 million to the Philippine government to start exploratory and development drilling in Tongonan, paving the way for the expansion of the technical cooperation agreement.

This program kicked off with the training of Filipino geothermists in New Zealand in 1974.

The state-run PNOC-EDC took over the technical cooperation program in 1976 when it was formed and with the success in Tongonan, the New Zealand government renewed its help to the Philippine government.

Barnett said that the KRTA group, which had been working in a somewhat isolated manner with Napocor since 1972, the birth of PNOC-EDC in 1976 and the assumption of the Tongonan and Palinpinon programs resulted in dramatic changes.

"Sure enough, within five months of EDC's formation, the first deep exploration well had been drilled at Tongonan and this confirmed a very hot and permeable 'world class' resource," Barnett said.

And the milestones rolled by.

Another landmark of the program is the training of some 361 Filipino experts in reservoir engineering and chemistry.

It was estimated that as much as 70 percent of the training requirements were provided by New Zealand from 1972-1985 and about 23 percent overall from 1985-2002.

With all the training under their belts, PNOC-EDC staff eventually became geothermal experts themselves.

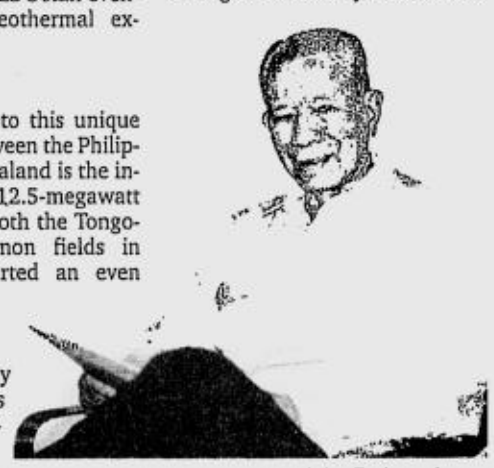
Like a baby

The testament to this unique collaboration between the Philippines and New Zealand is the installation of the 112.5-megawatt power plants in both the Tongonan and Palinpinon fields in 1983, which started an even more aggressive search for geothermal sources to supply the country's growing electricity needs.

Sarmiento tells the INQUIRER that discovering a commercially viable geothermal resource is like giving birth to a baby, kicking and crying because it is so healthy and strong.

"For like a baby, a well is also conceived, taken cared of, regularly tested, checked and monitored. It takes months for the baby to come out and it is the same for the geothermal well," he said.

"All the preparations needed from the time a well is sited and completed would take probably six months at the earliest and 1.5 years or longer. That is why there is a lot of anxiety hanging in the air when judgment time comes. Is it a boy or a girl, a big well or not," he says.



ARTURO Alcaraz, considered the Father of Philippine Geothermal Energy.

Sarmiento adds that he and the other experts who were lucky enough to be part of the teams that discovered these geothermal resources take tremendous pride and honor in being a part of history.

"Right now our hunch is that we have been very fortunate enough to be able to be part of the geothermal team that pioneered geothermal development in the country. Here is a select group that possesses the knowledge and expertise very few people in the world are able to get and used in the pursuit of a national objective to move the country and its people from abject dependence on imported oil," he adds.

Sarmiento also stresses that the technical cooperation between the two countries in geothermal development is perhaps the most successful one between the two countries, providing long-term benefits that future generations would continue to benefit from.

For his part, Barnett adds that one of the most satisfying outcomes of the close cooperation is the enduring quality of the relationships developed between the EDC staff and the New Zealanders.

"We are particularly proud of the evolution that EDC technical staff has made from low-key multidisciplinary "well review meetings" at individual project sites in the 70s to large, centralized multi-project 'reservoir management meetings' in the 80s," Barnett said.

KRTA's Kingston had said many years back at the start of this ambitious venture that powering a 1-kilowatt power plant would have made all the effort to find geothermal energy worthwhile.

But with geothermal energy now contributing 21 percent of the total energy mix, and PNOC-EDC providing more than half of the total geothermal energy capacity, it can be safely said that PNOC-EDC and the team of experts from New Zealand have more than just fulfilled his dream. They far exceeded his wildest expectations.

Indians, like Filipinos, seek the American dream

By Doris C. Dumlao

INDIA and the Philippines have a lot in common. Both enjoy democracy and a free press, an English-speaking populace, rich natural resources and cultural heritage as well as an active civil society and a rapidly growing middle class.

But both are also burdened with ballooning government budget deficits, wide poverty incidence, infrastructure bottlenecks, rapid population growth and heavy dependence on agriculture for employment.

India's challenges, however, are magnified by its sheer size in both land area and population. It is the third biggest country in the world, inhabited by a billion people. It is thus dubbed as Asia's "Sleeping Giant."

Some believe it has the potential to rival China, which has recently been gobbling up the foreign direct investments flowing back to the Asian region.

About 26 percent of the Indian population live below the poverty line. The poverty incidence is higher in the urban areas, accounting for about 30 percent, most of whom inhabit slum areas.

Social ills arising from the age-old caste system has likewise hampered efforts to alleviate poverty in the country. Most slum inhabitants belong to the lowest caste—what we learn in history books as the "untouchables."

These are among the reasons why multilateral lender Asian Development Bank is now giving India more attention, hoping to be instrumental in awakening the potential giant in it.

ADB projects

The INQUIRER was recently part of a press tour conducted by the ADB for its ongoing projects in the country—across Jaipur in Rajasthan, Bangalore and Mysore in Karnataka and Chennai—following a press briefing in the bank's headquarters in New Delhi.

The bank's strategy focuses on the three pillars of good governance, pro-poor growth and social development.

During the briefing in New Delhi, officials said the bank could disburse up to $7.5 billion in loans over the next four years prioritizing fiscal consolidation, infrastructure development, agriculture and rural development, state-level operations, regional cooperation, social development including environmental and heritage protection as well as good governance.

Poverty intervention projects account for 42 percent of the lending program and 36 percent by lending volume. Physical infrastructure projects account for 69 percent while urban social infrastructure projects account for 13 percent.

The thrust is almost similar to the bank's own initiatives in the Philippines, which likewise makes use of lots of official development assistance to pursue projects which can not be funded by the government alone.

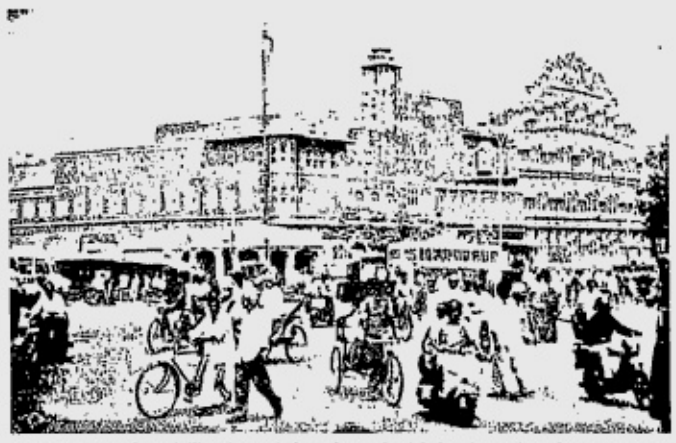
Infrastructure projects

An example of a key infrastructure project being undertaken with the assistance of the bank and other multilateral and bilateral lenders is the enhancement of national highways spanning 13,150 kilometers.

The ADB and the World Bank played a key role in the establishment of the National Highways Authority of India, which was created under a Parliament Act in 1988. The NHIA now implements projects worth about $1 billion each year.

The bank is also helping NHIA transform itself into a lean and efficient highway management organization with strong managerial and financial autonomy, extensive private sector involvement, sustainable funding mechanisms and strengthened capacity to deal with social and environmental issues.

ADB pursues the same objectives in its road projects in the Philippines, which are, however, much smaller in scale because the latter's territory is probably just as big as one Indian state. But in its bid to improve critical national and provincial road links in the Philippines, the bank also works on policy initiatives and institutional strengthening of national government agencies and local government units and explores alternative funding sources for road rehabilitation and maintenance through public-private partnership.



INDIA, like the Philippines, is burdened with budget deficits, poverty, infrastructure bottlenecks, rapid population growth.

In Rajasthan, the bank is active in urban infrastructure development, capacity-building for local government units as well as heritage preservation.

Rajasthan's capital city of Jaipur, is the Indian version of "Walled City" (except that the walls were built to ward off wild animals rather than as a military defense like in Intramuros).

Unplanned settlement

Just like any other urban area, however, Jaipur is hounded by unplanned and unchecked settlements of rural migrants, creating bottlenecks in its natural system of drainage. In some settlements, sewerage flows into open drains, creating unhygienic conditions and polluting natural water bodies.

All the streets in the Walled City are provided with sewer lines but only toilet waste is connected to the sewer system while liquid waste from the bathrooms and kitchens go to open drains. Under an ADB-assisted project, the state government is undertaking a project to connect all 50,000 households into the sewer lines to make the city cleaner.

The impact of the project was immediate. Households which are now connected to the sewer lines are now less prone to diseases and people can actually walk through the narrow lanes between the apartments which used to be wet, stinky and simply unbearable because of the liquid wastes.

About 10,000 households are now connected to the upgraded sewer lines and the remaining 40,000 will be connected over the next few months.

To improve prospects for tourism, ADB is likewise assisting the state government in the restoration of heritage sites.

Conservation expert Pooham Verma said: "The architecture, built style and morphology, of any historic settlement is a showcase of the rich heritage and traditions of the city and its people. The basic approach towards the conservation of the heritage structure is to reinstate it in accordance with existing evidence of design, detail, construction techniques and materials on site in order to bring back the structure to its former glory."

While India has a lot more heritage sites to conserve being a much older civilization, addressing the Philippines' deteriorating heritage sites is probably one area where bilateral and multilateral donors can also focus on. Take the case of the world-famous Ifugao Rice Terraces in Banaue, which has shrunk over the last 50 years from its original span of 15,000 hectares. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization was among those which have taken interest in this heritage site and provided grants for its preservation.

Karnataka, whose capital city is Bangalore, the Silicon Valley of Asia, is another Indian state which is hounded by rapid urban migration. Probably the most cosmopolitan among India's cities, it attracts hordes of migrants from other states who are seeking greener pastures—in the same way that people flock to Manila only to end up living in the slum areas.

As a strategy, the bank allocated funds for new direct poverty reduction activities, engaging non-government organizations (NGOs) and community development experts to adopt a "participatory planning and development" as opposed to a "top-down" approach.

For instance, assistance is being channeled to help women in slum areas establish self-help groups (SHGs) as an avenue to discuss and solve mutual problems, gain access to credit facilities and learn new skills to augment household income.

Kuduremala, a 30-year slum settlement near the University of Mysore, is an example of how a poor community can grow. The settlers originally belonged to the lowest caste and worked as scavengers, ragpickers, coolie workers and toilet cleaners.

Self-help groups

With the help of the NGO Rural Literacy & Health Program, the community formed self-help groups to encourage savings among the women and help them establish means of livelihood through micro-credit.

Papathi, a 24-year-old mother, was among those who benefited from one of these self-help groups. After getting a small capital from micro-credit, she was able to put up a small store within the slum settlement, thus augmenting her family's income. A portion of her monthly earnings is religiously being set aside to repay her outstanding loan.

The ADB has brought the same urban poor intervention model to the Philippines with its Strategic Private Sector Partnerships for Urban Poverty Reduction (STEP-UP) project in conjunction with the NGO Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP).

Overall, ADB has 25 ongoing loans worth a combined $4.5 billion in India. The plan is to increase lending levels over a three-year period to about $2 billion a year from about $1 billion. This is much more than the lending levels to the Philippines, which, however, probably needs much less in its jurisdiction.

Alex Jorgensen, the bank's specialist in urban planning, said while ADB's lending was small compared to the huge amount needed by India and to the bank's total portfolio (less than 2 percent), the institution hoped to become a catalyst in the country's development.

"As you can see, it's not so much in infrastructure, it's more of the key reforms that come with the program to push development," Jorgen said.

These development projects offer hopes for a better future for a lot of poor people in India. They may be destitute, but are not without ambition.

A housewife from the Kuduremala slum community in Mysore said she was striving to send her children to school to give them better employment opportunities in the future. She believed her descendants would not remain in Kuduremala forever.

"I'll send them to Bangalore, even to the United States," she said.

Indians, like Filipinos seek the American dream after all.

Poor learn to cash in on All Souls' Day leftovers

LUCENA CITY—Gathering of candle drippings and other cashable remnants from the cemeteries after the commemoration of All Souls' Day here is no longer the sole confine of a gamely contest among young boys and girls.

With the hardship of living, even the adults have joined the annual undertaking.

"A few kilos of this stuff can provide several kilos of rice for my family. This is much better than involving myself in criminal activities," Fernando Mendoza, 28, a jobless father of two young children tells the INQUIRER as he shows a jute sack half-filled with leftover candles in different colors.

Mendoza was only one of a number of adult candle-drip-collectors who spent the entire All Souls Day hopping from one cemetery to another and gathering all sorts of candle wax.

"Sometimes I have to beg from the owner of the tomb just to allow me to collect the drippings from their burning candles," he says.

He laments the situation that sometimes the family that watches a depressed grave is more generous in partaking the candle drops.

"For the visibly well-off, they would not allow us. They reserve the drops for their own children who will just play with them in their home, not like our needs," he says as he shakes his head.

For partners Josefa Pacheco and Maria Soysoy, residents of the nearby squatter area, they complain that what they gathered were only half the total amount of what they collected last year.

"We only netted P155 because we are now many in the venture. Last year, we sold P300 worth of candle drippings. But this is still okay for a night of work. With our share, a day's food is already secured for our family," Soysoy says.

The duo says they also collect tin cans that were used as flower vases. They sell these in the neighborhood junkshop.

This city has two public cemeteries and three private memorial parks. Just outside the gate of St. Ferdinand Memorial Park in Barangay Ibabang Dupay, a woman in her late 20s mans the makeshift buying station for the collected candle drippings.

Lani Maninang, an entrepreneur from Manila, buys "cleaned" candle drippings for P3 a kilo.

"Last year, I bought a total of five tons of candle drippings here and in neighboring towns of this city," she says.

She will bring the candle excess placed in jute sacks to several wax factories in Manila.

"The profit is just commensurate to the effort," Maninang says.

Children and teenagers teemed around her buying station, counting the money they got from the previous day's work.

For others, situation produces more creative and imaginative by-products.

"We're also after the leftover plastic flower bouquets and if fortunate, a beautiful vase as bonus," Romeo Panganiban, reveals.

He notes that most of the grave visitors used plastic flowers, such as rose and orchids, among many others expensive and beautiful artificial ornaments in their floral offerings. "They just added several real flowers to give a semblance of reality and freshness," Panganiban says.

Instead of collecting candle drippings, "I prefer collecting beautiful plastic flowers."

He admits that the whole day of Nov. 1 is spent searching for the target tomb.

"Night time is spent staking the tomb. As soon as the owners have left, then the flowers are mine for the taking including the vase. I just recite a short prayer for the dead for permission," he says, adding that he taps his friends to help him in the stakeout.

Then with a little floral arrangement technique and a piece of finely sanded and varnished piece of wood as base and tie wire, he transforms the cemetery leftovers into beautiful table flower ornaments.

"I sell them cheap in the market. No one from my neighbor wants to buy because it's from the dead," he says quite amused. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ENTERPRISING youth wait their turn to collect cash for candle drippings.

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GUESTS, brokers and property specialists crowd at the Ayala Westgrove Heights scale model to discuss Ridgewood Phase.

Ayala opens new phase

PROSPECTIVE buyers, homeowners, and the team of Ayala Land all inched their way through Friday traffic for a party at the Wasabi Restaurant in Makati Avenue recently. The event, dubbed "Boardroom Jazz," was dedicated to young executives interested in the Ridgewood Phase, the latest addition to the already thriving Ayala Westgrove Heights.

Ayala Westgrove Heights' Ridgewood Phase is the newest phase of the residential subdivision, offering the same luxury of space and natural environment. This new phase will be linked to the already existing developments via a private bridge. This new phase offers a wider variety of lot cut sizes giving lot buyers the opportunity to choose the best investment or property suited to their needs, said AWH Project Manager Robert Lao.

"For quite sometime now, Ayala Westgrove Heights has allowed families, to realize their dreams in this very exclusive residential property in the south. In true Ayala Land tradition, residents not only enjoy complete, first-class amenities but are also ensured of superb property management befitting their life-long investment," Lao said.

There are already two existing village clubhouses with amenities. Parks abound in the existing developments. For the Ridgewood Phase, unique rest and recreation amenities will soon be added, including a putting green, nature park, and a Sports Center complete with high-class leisure facilities like a covered badminton court, tennis court, lapping pool, and a spa sanctuary, among others.

Ayala Westgrove Heights, located in Silang, Cavite was formerly a mango orchard before it was transformed into a residential hideaway. Apart from its valued amenities, it boasts of close proximity to prestigious educational institutions such as De La Salle University-Canlubang, St. Scholastica's College and Don Bosco, establishing the area as the next educational hub in the South.

For inquiries about Ayala Westgrove Heights call 848-5000 or log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Safeguard supports Unicef's 'Handog 2big Operation'

PROCTER & Gamble (Distributing) Phils, through its flagship brand Safeguard, has pledged full support for the water supply and sanitation project of the United Nations Children's fund (Unicef).

Called Handog 2big Operation, the program will provide water and sanitation facilities, as well as promote hygiene education in 21 selected schools in the provinces from July 2003 to June 2005.

These schools are located in provinces which include Mt. Province, Northern Samar, Cebu, Negros Oriental, Davao City, Zamboanga del Sur, Agusan del Sur, Cotabato, Bukidnon, Sarangani and Sultan Kudarat. H20 is expected to directly benefit over 14,000 students during the two-year period.

"We fully appreciate Procter & Gamble's commitment in responding to the needs of Filipino children to help improve the quality of their lives through better health and proper hygiene facilities," said Unicef representative Terrel Hill.

Safeguard's support of Unicef's H2O project dates back to 1997 when a survey revealed that millions of Filipinos do not have access to safe water and 13 million to sanitation facilities. This problem still persists today, as shown by a survey conducted by the World Health Organization in 2000, that 10 million Filipinos still need safe water supply and 13 million need sanitation facilities.

These unhygienic conditions make people more prone to diseases, especially diarrhea, which is considered as the leading cause of death among Filipinos. These diseases, however, can be prevented with the help of right sanitation facilities and hygiene education.

In answer to this need, the Unicef partnered with Procter & Gamble in providing water and sanitation facilities to selected communities and schools from 1997 to 2002. To date, the partnership has benefited more than 65,000 Filipinos through the construction of 190 water supply systems and 500 toilet facilities.

For 2003 to 2004, Safeguard will be supporting Unicef by expanding H20 to selected areas which will also involve hygiene promotion among schoolchildren through the distribution of educational materials. This year's project kicks off this month in Buhisan Elementary School, Cebu City.

METROBANK AWARDS LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Metrobank recently conferred the Livable Communities Award to Manila, Marikina City and Quezon City and to their respective mayors for having successfully implemented projects that made visible and tangible improvements on the lives of their constituents. Metro Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando, together with Metrobank chair George S. K. Ty, presented the award to Mayor Lito Atienza (Manila), Mayor Marides Fernando (Marikina City), and Mayor Sonny Belmonte (Quezon City). The award, which carries with it a P500,000 cash incentive in support of the honorees' various projects, was given during the Bank's 41st anniversary held recently at the Metrobank Plaza in Makati City. In photo are (from left) chairman Bayani Fernando, Mayor Belmonte, Mayor Fernando, Mayor Atienza and Metrobank chair George S. K. Ty.

East West Bank's Home Suite Loan: Good options, better decisions

BACK then, there was just mom and dad coming in and going out of the strongly-built door, walking to and fro on the well-polished floor and viewing the outside world together through the wide open windows. A long way back, they were the ones building a family and forming the first foundation of life together as husband and wife in their dream house. Through the years, that house served as a faithful witness to their love until their joys and dreams are now shared with their growing children.

But the passing of time aged the great old house and lost some of its glory. It needs a little paint job and some repair work to bring it back to its grandeur. As a good son or daughter, why don't you revive the warmth of your home fit enough to be your own children's abode too?

House renovation is the common trend nowadays. It seems that almost everyone spends some cash to transform their house into something new and modern. You could do that too more conveniently with East West Bank's Home Suite Loan for a lot less. One of Home Suite Loan's rewarding programs is the HomeImprove which allows families to refurbish their homes suited to their lifestyles. Now you can redecorate your family home and even reconstruct it into a bigger one so your parents, your family, including your siblings' families can further enjoy it without having to spend a fortune.

At 6 percent p.a. fixed for one year, you can avail of the HomeImprove and some money for other priorities. Other programs available through Home Suite Loan is LotAcquire for lot buyers and HomeConstruct to build a house on a pre-owned lot. HomeAcquire is a good choice for acquiring a house, condominium or townhouse to be used as primary residence, vacation or retirement house. You could always turn these assets into cash when the need arises such as establishing a new business with HomeFlex.

The greatest opportunities only come once in a while in this lifetime but with East West Bank's Home Suite Loan program, everything is laid out for you thoughtfully. For your family's comfort and security, need you think twice?

Know more of these offerings from East West Bank's Home Suite Loan program. Inquire at 8-Access for Metro Manila callers and via toll-free 1-800-10-8 Access for provincial calls.

PACES-SAKAMOTO MATH LAUNCHED BY SEC GORDON

Paces-Sakamoto recently launched Japan's famed Sakamoto Math System for young students by Tourism Sec. Richard Gordon, Elisa Coyiuto Lim and Elena Tanyu Coyiuto at the Int'l Franchise Expo at PICC. Sakamoto Math Method is an innovative math training method to help students enhance math skills through solving word problems. Sec. Gordon hopes Japan's Sakamoto system will help upgrade Philippine educational standards and make Filipino students more globally competitive. Sec. Gordon is happy to welcome this powerful math method to the Philippines as he sees this as a tool that will amend the mathematical prowess of Filipino students. Shown (from left) are: Frumencio Co, DLSU Math professor; Elena Tanyu Coyiuto; Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon; Elisa Coyiuto Lim and Samie Lim, chair of Phil Franchise Association.

PAA DIRECTOR DELIVERS MESSAGE AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mantrade Development Corp president Kurt Bachmann Jr. calls all members of the Philippine Automotive Association (PAA), where he is also one of the directors, to be united specially in times where the automotive industry is confronted with lots of issues. He delivered his message in front of executives and key officers of automotive manufacturers, dealers, financing companies, insurance firms and other auto-related businesses during the 2nd PAA General Assembly 2003 held recently at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

Fundador, Jaycees forge partnership

FUNDADOR, the number one imported Spanish brandy in the Philippines, has forged recently a yearlong partnership with the Philippine Jaycee Senate. The dynamic partnership dubbed "Partners in Growth, Friends in Celebration," aims to promote the similarities and close ties between the value systems of the two parties.

Fundador is the number one imported Spanish brandy in the Philippines while the Philippine Jaycee Senate is the country's most prestigious and respected civic organization.

To concretize the partnership, Allied Domecq Philippines Inc, the exclusive importer and distributor of Fundador, signed a memorandum of agreement with the PJS during the latter's 35th year anniversary celebration held recently at the historic Club Filipino in San Juan.

The MOA outlines the JC's yearlong activities and fellowships across the country, which Fundador will be an integral part of.

Fundador will have the privilege of bringing its core values of integrity, loyalty, sharing and progress to life via an inspirational talk in each major event.

Allied Domecq brand manager Federico Kahn says of the partnership, "It is part of our institutional brand building program to push the value behind our brands, and not only the names on the labels."

In addition, each Senate gathering is made more at ease and comfortable with the leading brandy, Fundador Solera, and the newest premium spirit in the market, Fundador Gold Reserve, the specially-aged Domecq Brandy according to Kahn.

Both brandies are produced using the renowned Solera System, an aging process known for providing consistent quality and creating impeccable taste. Domecq brandies are distilled from the finest Spanish grapes, aged in traditional oak sherry casks, and stored in the bodegas of the Domecq family until ready for export to different parts of the globe.

Fundador will be extending special offers to the Philippine Jaycees Senators every month to be posted in The Senator, the organization's newsletters. Exclusive offers will vary monthly so Senate members can look forward to exciting promos from Fundador with each issue.

MSD AND MERCURY DRUG RENEW COMMITMENT

Global US-based pharmaceutical company Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) and leading drugstore chain Mercury Drug Corp renew their commitment to improve access of medicines to the public. The life-saving cholesterol-lowering drug simvastatin from MSD can now be availed by Filipino patients at a reduced price. Photo shows (from left): Christine Liwanag, MSD corporate affairs director; Stephanie Merida, MSD cardiovascular business unit director; Cora Sy Lim, MDC AVP purchasing; and Mario Marron, MDC AVP advertising and promotion.

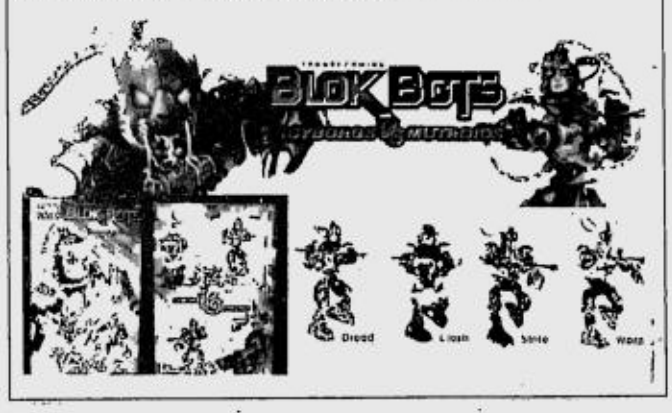
THESIS ON PR AGENCY

Agatep Associates Inc (AAI) president and CEO Charlie Agatep (2nd from left) receives a copy of an Asian Institute of Management (AIM) thesis on 'Corporate Strategy for Agatep Associates Inc' from Leo Bote (2nd from right) while AIM professors Patricia Lontoc (left) and Sonny Coloma look on. Bote, who obtained his master's degree in management (MBM), presented in his thesis AAI's rise from a sole proprietorship into the country's leading PR agency today.

ProductFILES

Mega Bloks Transforming Blok Bots

FOR 2003 the world of Mega Bloks Transforming Bots has evolved. The line will include 12" fully articulated action figures that transform into large-scale weapons. Two factions have risen up, both trying to gain complete domination over the other: Cyborgs - their human origins are barely visible, yet the remnants of humanity exist in their computer-controlled minds and visible arterial system. They feature big mechanical weapons: a net launcher and grappling hook designed for battle against their ultimate foe; Mutroids - a computer crash has caused mutations, skeletal systems and armor plating are deformed. Electronic neuro-pathways are replaced with ooze-squirting body parts. Also available are the Cyborg and Mutroid beasts. Mega Bloks Inc creates fun, educational and high quality construction toys that inspire kids and parents to play and learn together. The Mega Bloks system features basic and themed construction toys for boys and girls of all ages. To learn more about the amazing line of Mega Bloks toys, visit the website at www.megabloks.com. Or call 732-5141 to 47 local 209. Mega Bloks is exclusively distributed by Europlay Distributor Company Inc.



MCC Christmas Bazaar is back

CHRISTMAS is right around the corner and the much-awaited Metrobank cashless shopping bazaar is finally back.

With over a hundred participating merchants to choose from, Metrobank Credit Cards Christmas Shopping City at Le Pavillon is the biggest credit card shopping event happening from Nov. 14 to 16.

Export quality goods at great bargains await holiday shoppers who can get as much as 75-percent discount on a wide array of apparels, bags, holiday and home decors, leather goods, food delicacies, shoes, toys, jewelry, watches, sporting gear and a lot more.

Six major appliance dealers, namely Abenson, Ambassador Appliances, Anson's. Automatic Centre, Avid Sales Corp and Western Marketing will be participating in the bazaar. All appliances will be offered at 0-percent interest on installment, including projection and flat screen TVs, camcorders, digital cameras, DVD/VCD players, components, refrigerators, air conditioners, and more.

Metrobank cradholders also have the privilege of converting all other bazaar purchases to installment at a very low rate of 1.25 percent interest per month for a minimum purchase of P3,000 and at least P500 monthly amortization charged to Metrobank Credit Card.

Shoppers will also be treated to exciting raffle draws every 30 minutes, free parking and a load of freebies.

Entrance is free for Metrobank Credit Card cardholders. For added shopping convenience, prepaid cards may also be loaded and availed of at Le Pavillon.

Le Pavillon is located at in Metropolitan Park at the corner of Edsa Extension and Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City, across Hyatt Hotel.

Healthway rewards shoppers

HEALTHWAY rewards shoppers at Robinsons Place Manila with a promo PrivilegeCard, for every P1,000 worth of purchase until today. The promo allows holders to enjoy several healthcare benefits. Shoppers who want to claim their free promo PrivilegeCard should present their single or accumulated receipts at Healthway Medical Clinics. For inquiries, call 528-4556 to 57.

UNILAB, PPS WORKING TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN

The Philippine Pediatric Society (PPS), has recently reinforced their partnership with Unilab Consumer Health, makers of Neozep Forte and Neozep Syrup for Kids. For 2003, both groups have collaborated to implement a series of activities which aim to enhance the Filipino child's quality of life. To formally launch this special venture, Unilab sponsored a lunch symposium during the recent 40th Annual Convention of the PPS. Shown in photo during the convention are Joey Romana, AVP Unilab Consumer Health handing over the ceremonial Guidebook on Coughs and Colds to Dr. Estrella Villar with Dr. Carmelita Cuyugan, Dr. Alex Tuazon and Dr. Nepthali Ordoñez.

Halo-halo venture's success formula: Faith plus good customer relations

By Joyce M. Mejillano and Ronnie Lorejo
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TIWI, Albay—The period for cold treats such as halo-halo and ice cream has gone and the cold breeze of Christmastime is already in the air. Yet in this town, people from all walks of life and other parts of the region still come just to savor its famous taste.

Several *halo-halo* parlors here are always packed with customers to have their taste of the famous halo-halo of Tiwi, a geothermal-rich town that hosts the Tiwi Geothermal Power Plant complex.

One favorite destination of halo-halo aficionados is the DJC Halo-Halo located at the poblacion of this town, about an hour's ride north of Legazpi City.

For owners Domingo and Juliana Clutario and 28-year-old son Djohn, the return of satisfied and craving patrons is part of God's intervention in their business, which has existed for about 16 years now.

"Even during rainy days, people from different places would come to us and feast on our specialty as if it is summertime," Juliana, better known as "Manay Letty," tells the INQUIRER.

Prayers

In 1987, after their sari-sari store went bankrupt, the Clutarios were almost discouraged.

But armed with a strong faith in God, Manay Letty says they just prayed and prayed, and asked God to give them a hint on what business they should venture into so that they could start anew.

With only P5,000 in their hands, they started to make halo-halo.

"There were also other halo-halo makers in town at that time, but I told myself that I would make it very different from the rest," Mang Doming says.

He experimented with various flavors and tastes of halo-halo. He would put together all the ingredients he could think of that would make a perfect blend, from different kinds of fruits to ice cream and other food items.

As part of their technique, they would consult their customers on what ingredients they want or don't want in their halo-halo and they would heed their advice and implement it right away until they came up with the finest mixture.

They also learned to cook the ingredients in the proper way.

No artificial flavors

Manay Letty says one of the features of their halo-halo is the absence of artificial flavorings.

"We buy real and fresh fruits from the market and we process them ourselves. We never resort to preserved fruits," she says.

They revealed that the proper ratio of ingredients keeps the good taste of their halo-halo. Among the ingredients they use are banana, sago, gulaman, ube, leche plan, cheese, sweet corn and milk.

Another plus factor is the price. One serving costs only P25.

"It's so affordable, so even the 'masa' can afford to buy," says Manay Letty.

But after five years of selling it at P25, the couple plans to raise it to P30 to sustain rising costs.

Coming back

After a year of experimenting with the ingredients, the couple was able to prepare the best halo-halo that made customers keep coming back.

The couple narrated with pride that some famous persons have already tasted and enjoyed their halo-halo, like actress Charlene Gonzalez and actors John Regala and Paquito Diaz.

"Some senators and other prominent national officials who happened to visit Albay dropped by here just to taste our halo-halo," the couple boasts.

Sometimes, their house-turned-snack inn would be crowded because of so many customers.

"Some of our 'suki' bring along friends. Sometimes, they come in a bus," she says.

Some institutions like the Philippine National Bank in Tiwi have even committed to bring them customers in exchange for discounts.

Chinese businessmen from Tiwi and neighboring towns and cities also frequent the place.

Imitations

Mang Doming says many have imitated their halo-halo but failed to copy it, especially the taste.

He reveals that there are some big food chains in the country, which tried to bribe him in exchange for his formula.

"They told me to name my price in exchange for the information, but I declined," he says, adding that if he ever would get rich, he wants it to be a result of his own sweat.

The business, which, according to the Clutarios, is a "heaven sent," enabled them build a two-story house, buy cars and send their lone child, Djohn, to college and finish a Computer Science course in Tabaco City.

Manay Letty remembers earning as high as P38,000 in one day during the Lenten season last year.

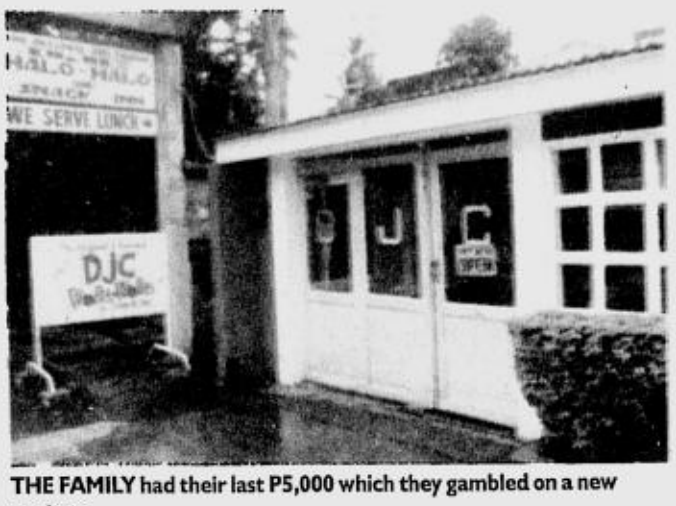
During regular days, they earn a low of P2,000 to a high of P8,000.

They plan to expand and use the second floor of their house as a dining area.

Secret formula

Aside from the proper cooking of ingredients, the couple reveals that the secret formula for their success is God plus good relations with customers.

"Aside from putting God in our day-to-day activity, good relations with the customers is the best way to keep them coming back," Mang Doming says, adding that, "treating them as special is a plus factor."



THE FAMILY had their last P5,000 which they gambled on a new venture.

The couple has been active in the church. Mang Doming is a lay minister in their local parish while Manay Letty is also active in church-based activities.

The couple adds that it is their habit every Christmas to give gifts to some less fortunate families in the area as part of expressing their gratitude to God.

"We believe that sharing what we have keeps our business alive," Manay Letty says.

Aside from this, Mang Doming advised that another good way is to "keep your feet on the ground. Always be humble."

Homemaker turns rice into a nutritious source of living

By Michael B. Jaucian
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

OAS, Albay—Margie Reonal, 42, a homemaker, made a name in the local food industry by making nutritious toasted cake out of rice.

The toasted rice cake, locally called "puto" but officially called here the Puto de Oas, is one of the province's delicacies. It is made of ground rice, condensed milk, margarine, eggs and sugar and costs P25 to P50 per pack.

The product appeals to consumers not only because of its delicious taste but also because of its half-moon shape.

It is cooked and shaped in a coconut shell, and has a shelf life of three weeks.

Spanish time

According to Reonal, her great grandparents told her that the puto has been in the market since Spanish colonial times. She says it originated in Barangay Talongog here, about two kilometers from the town proper.

Reonal recounts that before she ventured into toasted rice cake making, she used to sell fresh steamed puto with sweetened coconut or "tinakbab" in the market for only 50 centavos.

Hard work, perseverance and support from her husband, made her business grow and enabled her to send her eight children to school and meet the needs of her family. The children helped her during their free time.

Reonal, who has devoted her time to puto making for 22 years, says that even though the process of puto making is laborious, she finds it very fulfilling and rewarding.

She says that if the rice, which is the main ingredient in puto making, is mechanically and not manually ground by pounding, the puto does not taste as good.

Sold out

Reonal claims that during the recent trade fair in Intramuros, Manila, the Puto de Oas was easily sold out compared to pili sweets, linga, tabrilya (chocolate balls made of cacao) and other Bicol delicacies.

She says her product has even reached foreign shores, like the United States.

According to her, she gets the bulk of her orders from Bicolanos who have relatives abroad and who happen to visit Oas town.

Reonal now supplies Cherryland Bakeshop, Hotel la Trinidad, Royal Court and Albay Hotel in Legazpi City and the small stalls in the markets all over the Bicol Region.

Her puto is always in demand in the market, especially during the holidays.

"The toasted rice cake serves as the *pasalubong ng bayan*," Reonal says.

Department of Agrarian Reform Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan, during the inauguration of the farmers' building in Pili, Camarines Sur in March, said the product has a great potential for export.

Reonal, quoting Pagdanganan, says puto making is a good source of livelihood.

When Pagdanganan had tasted the puto, he was very impressed, Reonal narrates.

Nutritious

When Reonal attended a seminar sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry regional office here, she was able to improve her craft of puto processing.

Following the DTI suggestions, she was able to improve the taste and has come up with a chocolate-flavored variety.

Puto is highly recommended by the DTI because there are no preservatives and it is rich in protein, calcium, iron, thiamin, phosphorous and riboflavin. Reonal says puto also goes well with soda.

When Reonal's neighbors learned that her business was profitable, most of them were encouraged to venture into puto making.

Reonal is now the head of the Oas Puto Makers Association, which has 50 members.

THE TOASTED rice cake serves as the pasalubong ng bayan.

To promote and improve the packaging of Puto De Oas, each member will be given P5,000 by Mayor Jesus Rearío II.

'No lineage dictates . . .

From page B1

earned a college degree. A masters in business administration is looked upon favorably.

Moreover, No one who works for the business is allowed to engage in a sideline or invest in another business. Also, to align management's interests with shareholders, it was deemed important for working family members to plow back some of their earnings into the company and increase their ownership of the family business.

And to create an environment for professional growth and movement, the family has instituted a mandatory retirement program of 60 years old. This retirement policy applies to all, whether a large shareholder or not.

Family council

"For family managers, we set up rules and we meet on a regular basis. We even have a family council that helps keep the family united. The rules are there as a code and we hold this code sacred. Early on, we were all made aware that this code and adherence to it mean survival, continuance and success," Jon Ramon says.

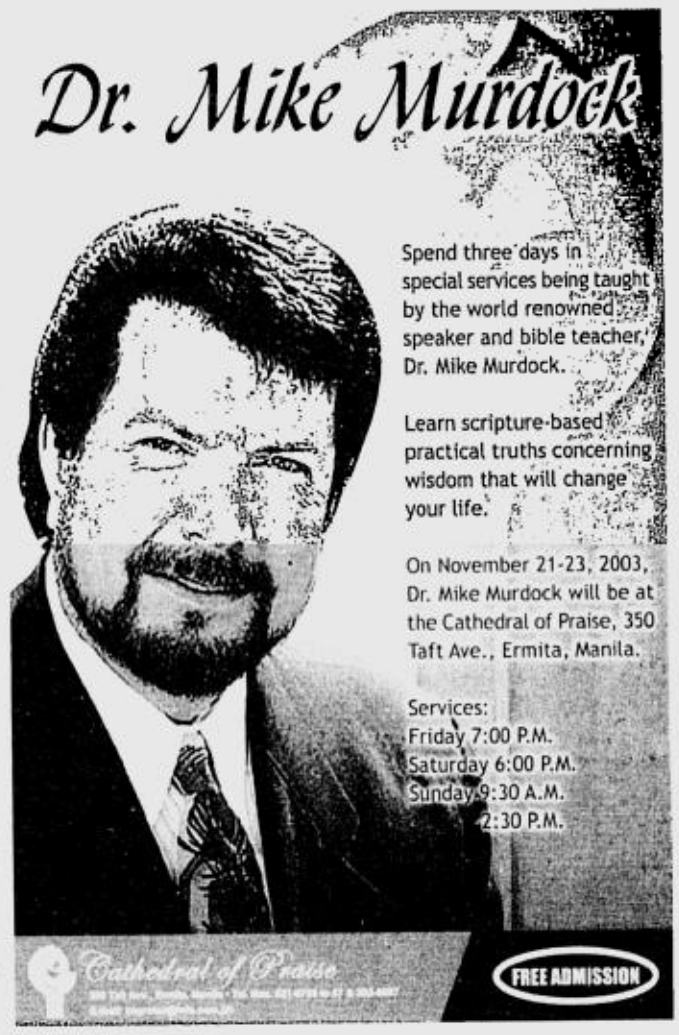
Over the generations, we have worked hard, knowing that by staying together, we can achieve more," says Jon Ramon.

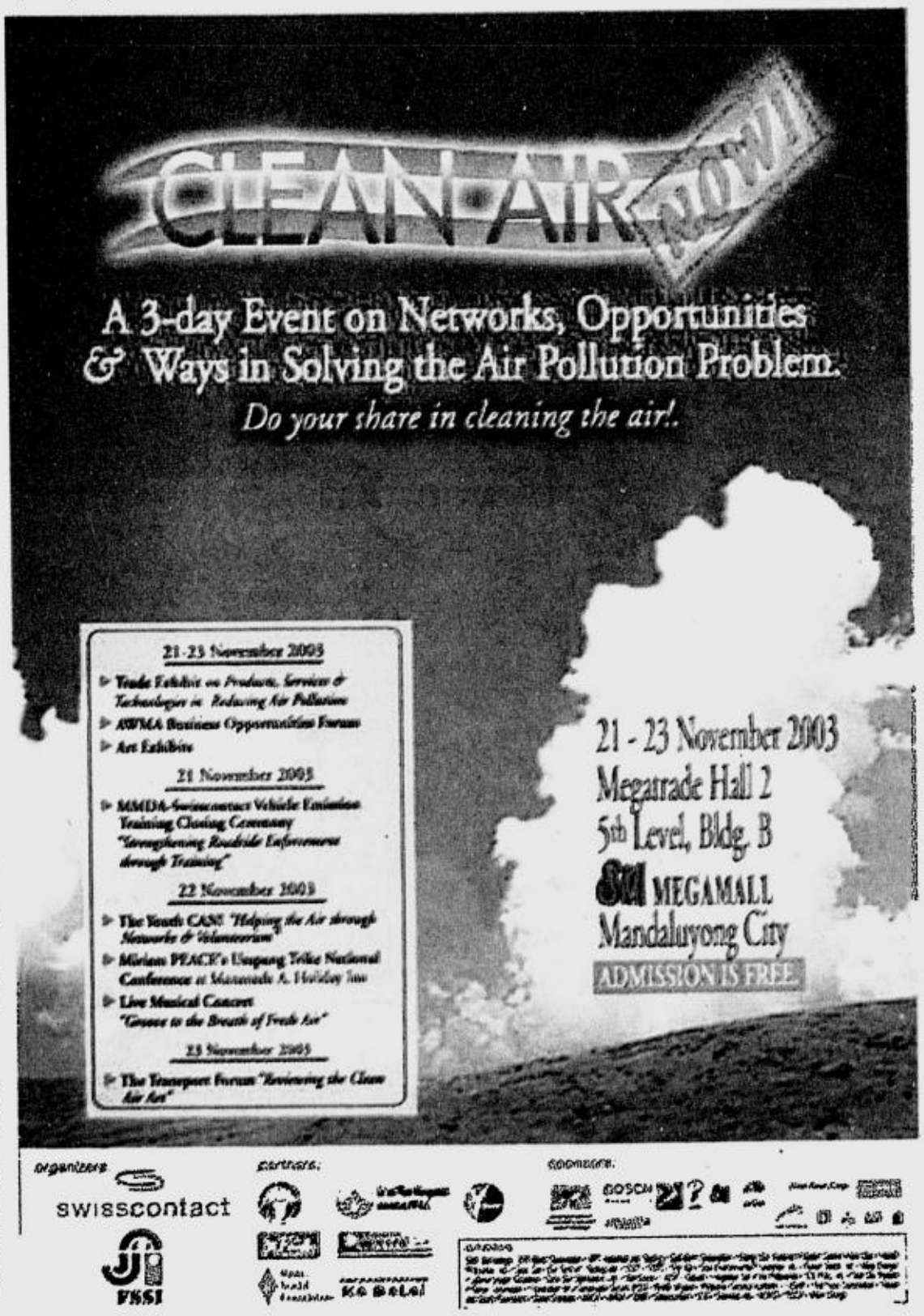
This philosophy has served the Cebu-based family well, allowing it to create one of the strongest, most successful and most stable family-run businesses in Asia.

Values

For the cheerful Jon Ramon, the family's hard work, teamwork, cohesiveness, focus and drive were the values that spelled success for the Aboitiz Group.

"Basically, we work with key core values within the family. We realize that many things can come into play. High levels of trust, fairness and understanding are very crucial. We work and move based on consensus. Some may disagree, but if the majority feels that's the way to go, we move forward with great speed," he says.





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13.Lot/Lot-7 Blk.42, Eagle St. GSIS Vill., Matina / LA-500	850,000
14.Lot / Lot-552-C-2-C-6-C-1 Int.C.Lizada Dr,Beach Club Drive, Lanang / LA - 2,500	5,232,000
Int. Brgy. Ma-a, Talomo	
15.Agri./Lot-410-E-1 /LA-12,000	6,278,000
16.Agri./Lot-410-E-2 /LA-12,000	6,278,000
17.Agri./Lot-410-E-3 /LA-12,059	6,309,000
18.Agri./Lot-410-E-4 /LA-12,000	6,278,000
Nat'l. Hi-way, Int. Bud-Bud	
19.Agri/L596-A-K-3-D/LA-20,393	2,077,000
20.L596-A-K-3-C / LA-22,585	2,301,000
21.L596-A-K-3-A / LA-20,107	2,050,000
22.L596-A-K-3-B /LA-22,769	2,322,000
ILIGAN CITY	**MIN BID**
23.L-1 B-13,Camague/LA-5,162	1,216,000
TAGBILARAN CITY	**MIN BID**
24.Lot/L-3260-A, CP Garcia North Ave.Tagolo/LA-5,500	4,920,000
BUKIDNON (Lingi-on, Manolo Fortich)	**MIN BID**
25.Agri./Lot-127 /LA-31,458	253,000
26. Agri./Lot-130 /LA-52,387	302,000
27.Agri./Lot-530/LA-105,201	605,000
28.Agri./Lot-528 /LA-86,159	496,000
29.Agri./Lot-519/Net LA-58,479	336,000
30.Agri/Lot-520/Net LA-82,022	472,000
31.Agri/Lot-518/Net LA-79,051	455,000
CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY	**MIN BID**
32.L-15,Brgy.Balulang/LA-9,302	1,360,000
33. Agri. Lot/L3070, Barrio Canitoan / LA 50,076	2,350,000
34.Lot/L-15-B-2,E.Tamparong Dr. Villa Ernesto Subd., Ph.-2. Gusa / LA. -278	521,000

COMMERCIAL

MANDAUE CITY	MIN BID
35.Indl.Lot w/ Whse/L-570-A A & 57B-B-2 G. Ouano, Looc.TLA-2,894/FA-1,838	16,280,000
36.Com'l/ Ind'l Lot w/ Bldg/ Offc/L75-F A. S. Fortuna St., Banilad /LA-2,960/TFA-1,468	32,041,000
CEBU CITY	**MIN BID**
37. Comml./Ind'l. Lot w/ Bldg.Offc./L4759, 4761, 4768 & 8279-A,Cebu South Rd.Basak Pardo. LA-6,210 / TFA-4,685	32,000,000
38. Comml. Lot w/ 6 stv. Bldg./L7624-C -1-B & 7624-C-3,Colon Pahina Central Sambag LA-660.70/TFA-2,797	41,803,000
CEBU PORT AREA	**MIN BID**
39.Lot 3 Cabahug St / LA-1,100	9,900,000
DAVAO CITY	**MIN BID**
40. Lot / Lot-552-K-2-C-3, Natl.H-way cor. C. Lizada Drive, Lanang / LA. - 890	7,450,000
41. Lot / Lots 1-L-3-B-2, 1-L-3-D-2-C & 1-L-3-D-1-D, P. Bangoy / T.L.A. - 1,976	28,847,000
42. Lot /Lots 1-L-3-H-3-B-1 & 1-L-3-H-3-B-2,J.Luna/TLA-544	4,236,000
43. Lot / Lot 1-L-3-H-3-B-3, Juan Luna / T.L.A. - 271	2,110,000
CAGAYAN DE ORO	**MIN BID**
44. Lots w/ Bldg./Lots-1138-B & 1148-A-2, J. Pacana, Puntod Port Area/TLA-587	3,500,000
MISAMIS ORIENTAL	**MIN BID**
45. Ind'l. Lot w/ oil mill /offc. bldgs-L3626,954,6815,953,6896, 941, 2693,&6894, 6859 & 3955-B, Old Nat'l Hi-way, Luz Banzon, Jasaan / TLA 5,464 / TFA 1,589	6,857,000

JUST BRING P20,000 (CASH OR MC) SHOW MONEY TO QUALIFY TO BID FOR EACH PROPERTY.CWT IS FOR THE BUYER'S ACCOUNT. ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS. Unionbank may, at anytime, withdraw any of the properties listed above prior to auction.

PASIG

PASIG PRIME
PROPERTY FOR SALE
418 sqm. with 2-sty; 5-door apartment opposite Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasig near McDonald's, Jollibee and Pasig Cathedral; P25,000/sqm
Call T- 6414589; 0918- 9422422

HOUSE & LOT

ALABANG

AYALA ALABANG
2STY POOL 500m² 16M NEG DIR. BUYERS 0917-7310828

NEAR ALAB-ZAPOTE ROAD 500 TO 2500m² T873-8716

KALOOCAN

CAMARIN CAL CITY LA240m² FA323/m² 2Bdrms 1T&B P1.2M Vic/Gie8903461loc27

LAS PINAS

150sqm Lot 2BR2TB 8614072

LAS PINAS / BACOOR
2-4 Brs., 1-3 T&B, 2 Storey
P5,000.00 to Reserve / No Loan Req.
872-1340 • 872-3969

MAKATI

3Sty Apt nr Mkt Square 3M 7288 JVictor 0917-9217117

MKT NR AYALA
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2tb/grge P3.435M 8903461 loc 34

HOUSE & LOT

MARIKINA

Meteor Homes, Parang 5BR 2TB LA245 1.5mag 947-6862

MUNTINLUPA

AYALABANG/SOUTHVALE/ STONECREST B-NEW, SWAP, TERMS 726-0434, 726-4371, 727-3296 • 0917-8456712

PARANAQUE

3-4BR 2-3TB Den MdsRm w/TB G/Flr BR H20 Tank Nr Mkti & Alprt / Main Rd 822-9993 • 0922-8088800

SAN DIMISIO 2 Stry P1.9M LA200m² FA 323m² 9Bdrms 7 T&B Vic 8903461 loc 27

PASIG

DE CASTRO SUBD 2Stry P1.8M LA321m² FA271m² 6Bdrms 2T&B Vic 8903461loc27

Greenwoods Bnew Elegant 2sty 3br 2.8M 0917-8411708

Philam 400m² 4BR 6788400

HOUSE & LOT

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Park Spring
San Pedro, Laguna
40 min. from Makati City
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Call #: 0918-5505198 0920-8635511

LAGUNA

V. VERDE 3
4br SPool Den Call 6316649

QUEZON CITY

201m² Proj.2 0917-8378127

Capitol Hills Golf Subd. Q.C. 9312022 / 09178161862

CUBAO nr SM 3sty 2.5 nice &hses w/LA450 9.8M 4220162

LGV 714LA 5br 9243424 13M

Nr Ateneo 9M & Up Build as per Specs Call 645-3731

P381,000/unit condo 2Kms fr. SM Fairview 30sqm thru Pag-Ibig 8179650 / 9750 / 0919-8994322

PROJ.6, BNEW 9263307

•Sikatuna9210255/9219967•

SM NORTH EDSA
4BR 4TB 2CG Fully Conc. P4M Bungalow w/Big Lot P6.5M
•BNew 4BR 2CG M'danao P3.1M
•Sto. Domingo BNew 5BR P8.8M
•SM Centerpnt BNew 4BR P8.9
•ABS-CBN 6BR 5TB Grdn P12M
371-3996 • 0917-7957850 cbo

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE — LOT — PARANAQUE

VACANT LOT FOR SALE

Location & Description:

Land and factory building located at 306 J.P. Rizal Street, Barangay Namayan, Mandaluyong City; rear portion of the property is Pasig River.

Lot Area : 4,287.00 Php 60,917,220.00 (negotiable)

For Particulars: Please call at 811-5807 up to 14/ Fax No. 811-5815
Ask for **Gee/Cirila/Kiko/Dannie**
Note: Prices subject to change without prior notice

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house & lot package also available
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QUEZON CITY

STA. MESA HEIGHTS
472.5m² Call Allin
3382116/17•0917-8101660

Teachers Village 5BR 4TB 2Car Grge 9115476 9132701

RIZAL

TAYTAY nr Siena LA180 FA200 Cash 700T Ass 1.2M - 6270195

SAN JUAN

Barascain St. Little Baguio 395sqm Lot 10.8M nr Wilson 647-2404 • 721-5501

Ghills 950sqm 5BR N-East 0917-3262553 • 700-3378

CAVITE

IMUS, CAVITE P250T 633-6327 • 655-0585 Leo

LAGUNA

LAGUNA BEL-AIR LA132/m² 3bdrms 2T&B FA84/m² P1.85M Vic 8903461 loc27/25

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 3Stry FA 210/m² LA 78/m² P1.9M Vic 8903461 loc 27/25

CONDO/TWNHSE

56.29 WACK2 Royal Mansion 1BR renovated A1 w/ jaccuzi 2.8M T- 825-9564

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE — LOT — PARANAQUE

NEW HOUSE ON SALE

- ☑ Newly Constructed with Clean Title
- ☑ Located at Sacred Heart Village, Fairview, Quezon City (Near SM Fairview)
- ☑ Lot Area: 312 sq.m.
- ☑ Floor Area: 270 sq.m.
- ☑ 2 Storey with 5 Bedrooms (Master Bedroom w/ Bath tub), 5 Bathrooms
- ☑ 1 Servant's Quarter
- ☑ 2 Car Garage Complete with Lighting Fixture (Chandelier)
- ☑ With Landscaping
- ☑ With Swimming Pool
- ☑ 7.8M Negotiable

***Contact Karen:* 0917-9313182**

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

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1st Class COMM'L OFFICE RESL. CONDO
AURORA / LAUAN ST., PROJ. 3, Q.C.

Nr. ATENEO * UP * MIRIAM * KOSTKA * PSBA * NCBA
1ST CLASS AMENITIES
R-Top S.Pool, Gym, Sauna, Etc.
W/ X'LENT VIEW 360°
MOVE-IN @ 10% DP
TO SEE... IS TO BELIEVE
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HOUSE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR RENT (DAILY/WEEKLY/MONTHLY) CALL
MASTER C RE-DE, INC.
TEL# 913-5223/921-4883 922-4464/913-7632

MAKATI

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8169849

•LUNA 16M•
ROCKWELL 0917-8936105

•Pacific Fort• •Essensa• P11M Down
Bal. of P11M in 9 mos 0% RUSH!!! 0917-8936105 Jing

MANILA

930T nr UST 0920-8309744

ESPANA TOWER nr UST 0920-9112910

NR LA SALLE TAFT
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.295M 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

Presell P17,800/mo. assume balance 2BR 2TB T9269828

RUSH SALE 3BR 2TB twnhse type w/garage P2.750M neg 0917-4143703 private subd.

RUSH SALE EDSA CONDO 2br 3th 1pkg gym pool sauna jacuzzi 0918-5179690

PASIG

Condo Malaysia Plaza ADB Ave. Belde Discovery 0917-5218338

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

Condo nr Mkt/Ortigas, 1.7M only 10%DP Move-in, 2-4BR Rent to own, 09173242185

Valle Verde5 117LA 198FA 671-25-67 • 0917-5253465

VVerde 2 60m² P2M 912-2304

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO 1.4M 10%DP 9132224

CUBAO Thse Sale/Rent to Own 4BR3TB 2403424 DBO

LOYOLA GRAND MANSION 6.5M Neg 202FA 4BR w/attic 4TB S'pool Gazebo Tennis Basketball Court T-435-1779 361-6855 • 924-1647 Cel.0917-8410620 (text msg)

QC Thse 3BR 115m² 9122304

SAN JUAN

ANNAPOLIS WILSHIRE 1BR 1car garage 890-2644 890-2487 Noel Manalo

One Beverly Annapolis St. 3BR 3TB pkng 0917-2482824

LPL 2BR/165sqm DBuyers 0917-3262553 • 700-3378

LOT

KALOOCAN

RAINBOW VILLAGE5 LA215m² P3475/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

LAS PINAS

TALON 204m²@P4,000 639-1694 / 0917-8102903

MAKATI

298 sqm Nr. AYALA T-8908681

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA 333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

QUEZON CITY

E.Rod nr Balete 500m² 7217222

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS choice lots w/ view 426-5650•929-1832

VILLA ESPA—A LA108.50m² P12,000/m² Vic8903461loc27

RIZAL

Twn&Cntry Hts 150m² 500T Rush Sale lowest price Irene 7346262 / 09192354545

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

Preselling 2BR 2TB Twnhse 3.5M 0917-8936105 Jing

LOT

OTHER AREAS

TOWN & CNTRY HILLS LA240m² P3,125/m² Vic 8903461loc 27

OTHER PROVINCIAL

Beachfront:Matwad, Batangas 1.3has. 8943823 Tang/Madel

BATANGAS

5 - Hect Lot - Sto. Tomas Batangas. Ask P250/sqm Tel. 8105223 / 09272617308

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA613m² P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

TAAL BTGS 200mtrs from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P185.50/m² Vic8903461loc27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL LA 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

TOWN & COUNTRY LA 180m² P2,900/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

Agricultural Land with Fruit Plantation, Trees, Cruses Tanza,Cavite 76,192 sqm 400/sqm Negotiable Ching Tel 8813039 Grace 09273404999

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m² P2,900/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

Pallas Athena Executive Village 247sq/mT 639-2817

ST. CHARBEL EXEC VILLAGE LA371m² P2,650/m² Vic/Gigie 8903461 loc 72 or 25

LAGUNA

Sacrifice Sale Laguna Bel Air 1 155m² 5,800/m² Neg. 7880905 nr Brent

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m² LA240m² Vic8903461loc25/27

SOUTHPOINT 4T/m² 912-2304

PROVINCIAL

•TAGAYTAY LOTS•
Along H-way low dp/mo. 240m²-up
Coldest Spot T6598704 Totie

BUILDING

4 STOREY COMM. BLDG.
Along Libis @ Phoenix Heights
25M 671-62-27 • 671-53-62

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

MANGO ORCHARD 850trees 9ha 10yrs Irrigated Fenced 10km fr CDO Airport Access 5.3K/tree 0918-2534658 BOY

Rush Piggery w/ECC 9522109

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

PLARIDEL,BULACAN 1501m² P1M BENG 9314466 /9124573

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL LA 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903451 loc 27

RIZAL

24has. adj spring/Pililla River, ideal for farm lot/ subd./orchard/poultry/ piggery P160/m² nego 911-5631 • 911-0735

BATANGAS

TAAL BTGS 200mtrs from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P185.50/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

FACTORY/WHSE

Cebu Factory Warehse Bldg. Almost 1 Hec. P25M Neg. Terms 09189167396 Ray

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

OTHER PROVINCIAL

MASSWAY SUPERMARKET COMMERCIAL Space for Rent Sto. Domingo 1st. Capas, Tarlac T-615-0013 / 615-0090 Look for Laarni Talavera

HOUSE

MAKATI

1416 Newton St. 5788063

NR. AYALA CTR.
2STY, 2BR 2TB W/GAR.@ P15T/MO. TEL. 8900681

MANILA

2Stry Duplex Near Harison 3BR 2TB 2Car 0918-9046890

STA ANA 5634068/5310471

MANDALUYONG

Ghills 5BrPool 120T 7247349

PASIG

V. VERDE 3
4br SPool Den Lanai 5316649

VV5 5BR FF Garden 6310541

SAN JUAN

2BIG b/rm 1md 1storage 1 bath BIGyard STRONG H2O 7003328 -- 09198629978

CONDO/TWNHSE

KALOOCAN

NEW 1BR•2BR COM'L CLINIC•OFFICE•P6.5Tup #162 P. Jacinto cor. #39 Biglang Awa Caloocan 323-0175

MAKATI

NEW STUDIO / Coml / 2BR 6.5Tup 1072 Dian St. Mkti 843-9418•0918 9390355 Rose

P. SALCEDO 2BR 145SQ FF P38K/MO. 0918-9257904 OWN

ROCKWELL HIDALGO 1bdrm FF 77sqm w/pking 65T inc dues 8996070 0917-5337800 8126185 8921727

MANILA

NEW CONDO 2BR COR LASALLE TAFT 1BR MADMUP.GIL 2558656

NR. DIAMOND HOTEL
F-FURN STUDIO w/ CABLE TEL. 0917-9160226

Stud Type FF Nr. Robinson Malate 12T • 0918-9218067

MANDALUYONG

P13,500 SEMI CONDO 120M² 3BR W/ TUB W/ PARKING CALL MARLYN 5338536

PASIG

Moga Plaza 1BR FF 631-0541

Ortigas Ctr. Newly Rnvtd S-Furn w/Appl 2BR 2TB MdOtr w/TB 1P.Slot T:722-9294/0353 0916-7990500 by Appointment

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ULTIMATE decorated furn or ADB 1or2br 2lb + mds Jacuzi bar 2kits dishwasher etc. Italian furn fixt perfect for ex-pats T374-2105 / 67 • 0917-8966844

QUEZON CITY

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3BR Valencia corner Castilla St T7267908 / 09175325838 Rowena

MONTGOMERY 3BR 4578041

OHT-3 2br furnish Unit 17-H East Wood City Libis 633-0164

SCT AREA 4BR NEW 4578041

SAN JUAN

1Wilson 2BR 20T 4121825

Avalon W-Ghills 772-4320

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2BR APT W/ GRG #8951662

MANILA

3BR, 1TB w/ tel. line near St. Scho and CSB Call 5310637

MANDALUYONG

1BR up&dwn w/garage 32 Bulalakaw back Mun Hall P5T Tel.5334951 / 6585656

QUEZON CITY

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ROOM OR BEDSPACE (F)
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MAKATI

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QUEZON CITY

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OFFICE SPACE 4 RENT 4211218 / 09272723453

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2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

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OTHER REAL ESTATE

REALTORS/SEMINAR

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Looking for 1000has. Dinalupihan 0920-9112910

Looking for 300has in Tanay Rizal 0920-9112910

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

'01 VTIS 1st own 09185085617

CRV 2000 09166878481

MITSUBISHI

FOR SALE MIT ECLIPSE 97 18 INCH MAGS 711-2562 MARIVIC/NOEL 650K NEG

OPEL

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TOYOTA

1993 Toyota GLi 1st Owner 190T Look for Jing •643-5445 or 0916-7047339•

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JEEP/JEEPNEY/AUV

LGS PASSENGER JEEPNEY
1999 4BA1 (22 Seater)
P220,000.00 (neg.)
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tel# (054) 255-6341
(919) 5088237

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TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

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2001 AUDI A6 Highline 4D Sdn 1.8M Purchase Date June 2001 Racing Green w/ beige leather seats Comp. Insurance T'l June, 2004 New tires, Mileage 31,390 Call Aida Off hrs 9-6 Mon-Fri Tel 632-9051 / 637-3328

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 6567695

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262700

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 8906630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

APPLIANCES

KENWOOD STEREO 7217222

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

Generator 48kva 7217222

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT ELITE PIANO CENTER Almost New:TERMS-7213124

OTHER EQUIPMENT

UNIC ESPRESSO MACHINE & grinder 0919-4480402

PETS

Belmal Pups T642-5499

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As per AO # 32 S2000 of the Department of Agriculture Exhibitors are required to bring the updated vaccination records of their dogs duly certified by a Veterinarian with an updated PRC license and PTR.
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CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
wishes to announce its
INVITATION TO BID
on the following:
Lease of Tanghalang Francisco Balagtas (Folk Arts Theater) Area - (17,717.20 sq.m.) at the CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Please send a letter of intent to bid, addressed to Mr. Ed Duque, CCP BAC Secretariat, Office of the Vice President, Cultural Center of the Philippines, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. Tel Nos. 832-3660 or Fax No. 832-3683/834-0471. Deadline for submission of letters is on Friday November 28, 2003, 5:00 p.m.

The CCP reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof without offering any reason, waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government, and the right to confiscate the bid bond and/or pursue appropriate legal action should the winning bidder refuse to accept the award.

Further, the CCP assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that they may incur in participating in the undertaking, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) SID HILOAWA
Chairman, CCPBAC

(PDI - Nov. 14 & 16, 2003)

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- College graduate
- Male/Female, below 27 years old
- At least 2 years work experience
- Experience with consumer products preferred
- Familiar with trade marketing activities
- With keen eye to details
- Computer-literate
- *(This position is also open to applicants from Iloilo, Pampanga, Cebu, Davao, Bacolod, General Santos, Naga and Cagayan.)*

PROMO GIRLS
- Female, at least 5 feet and 2 inches, below 27 years old
- At least high school graduate or college level
- With pleasing personality
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Experience in wine sampling is an advantage

ACCOUNTING CLERK
- Male/Female, below 27 years old
- Fresh graduates and entry-level applicants are encouraged to apply.
- Computer-literate
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PHARMACIST:
- Male/Female, below 30 years old
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- Computer-literate

Please send your application letter, comprehensive resume stating salary history, 2 x 2 picture and transcript of records at:

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- Coordinates news gathering activities
- Edits stories and designs the layout of newspaper pages

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QUALIFICATIONS:
- Graduate of Mass Communication or any related course
- 1 year experience on this job or jobs leading to it
- Knowledge in Basic Computer / Office software operation

RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Assists in representation, evaluation, coordination and monitoring of company sponsored events (community, corporate, school interviews and tours)
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QUALIFICATIONS:
- Graduate of any Business Course
- With pleasing personality and excellent customer relations skills
- Articulate and dresses professionally

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- Visits and monitors agents' sales performance

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QUALIFICATIONS:
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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project
DIVISION PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT
Bids and Awards Committee
San Jose de Buenavista, Antique

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Loan No. 4106-PH

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines, through the Department of Education (DepEd) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (hereinafter referred to as IBRD) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP), and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*.

2. The DepEd Division Project Implementation Support Unit (DepEd-DPISU) for TEEP through the Division Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Construction/Repair of school buildings itemized in thirteen (13) packages (the "Works") in different municipalities in the Province of Antique. The following are the project packages:

Package/District/School	NC	R	Scope of Works
Package I – Project Reference No. 02-010-2003			
Anini-y			
Aniny Central School	6		Construction of One (1) Unit Two (2) Storey Six (6) Classroom SB
Sub-total, Package I	6		
Package II – Project Reference No. 02-011-2003			
Hamtic			
1. Fabrica Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom MPF
2. Casamargay Elementary School	1		Construction of One (1) Unit One (1) Classroom Multi-grade SB
Sub-total, Package II	1	3	
Package III – Project Reference No. 02-012-2003			
Tobias Fornier			
1. Dicluman Elementary School		4	Repair of One (1) Unit 4-Classroom BLSB
Hamtic			
2. MV Velasco Memorial Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
3. Asturias Elementary School		2	Repair of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom BLSB
Sub-total, Package III		9	
Package IV – Project Reference No. 02-013-2003			
Hamtic			
1. Pu-ao Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom MPF
2. Minarog Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom MPF
San Jose de Buenavista			
3. Bani Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
Sub-total, Package IV		9	
Package V – Project Reference No. 02-014-2003			
Sibalom			
1. Former Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
2. Odiong Elementary School		2	Repair of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom BLSB
3. Inkas Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom MPF
San Remegio			
4. Magulakna Elementary School		2	Repair of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom BLSB
Sub-total, Package V		10	
Package VI – Project Reference No. 02-015-2003			
Patnongon			
1. Igbon Elementary School		2	Repair of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom BLSB
2. La-Rioja Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom MPF and
		2	Repair of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom BLSB
3. Baybay Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
Sub-total, Package VI		10	
Package VII – Project Reference No. 02-016-2003			
Lauan			
1. Olac Elementary School	2		Construction of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom SB
2. Lindero-Cadagay Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
3. Guagan Elementary Scool		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
Sub-total, Package VII	2	6	
Package VIII – Project Reference No. 02-017-2003			
Lauan			
1. Lauan Central School	2		Construction of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom SB
Barbaza			
2. Jinalinan-Ipil Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
3. Oas Elementary School		4	Repair of One (1) Unit 4-Classroom BLSB
Sub-total, Package VIII	2	7	
Package IX – Project Reference No. 02-018-2003			
Barbaza			
1. San Antonio Elementary School		2	Repair of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom BLSB
Tibiao			
2. Tibiao Central School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
3. Espinosa Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
Sub-total, Package IX		8	
Package X – Project Reference No. 02-019-2003			
Tibiao			
1. Martinez Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
2. Sto. Justo Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
3. San Francisco Norte Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
Sub-total, Package X		9	
Package XI – Project Reference No. 02-020-2003			
Culasi			
1. Camancijan Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom MPF
2. Buenavista Elementary School		4	Repair of Two (2) Units 2-Classroom DPWH-BOD
3. San Luis Condes Elementary School		2	Repair of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom BLSB
Sub-total Package XI		9	
Package XII – Project Reference No. 02-021-2003			
Culasi			
1. Fe Condes Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
2. Culasi Central School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
3. Sambuan Elementary School	2		Construction of One (1) Unit 2-Classroom SB
4. Bacalan Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
Sub-total, Package XII	2	9	
Package XIII – Project Reference No. 02-022-2003			
Pandan			
1. Patria Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom MPF
2. Magaba Elementary School		3	Repair of One (1) Unit 3-Classroom BLSB
Sub-total, Package XIII		6	
TOTAL	13	95	

Legend:

NC	New Construction
R	Repair
SB	School Building
BLSB	Bagong Lipunan Type School Building
MPF	Marcos Pre-Fab Type School Building
DPWH-BOD	Department of Public Works and Highways Bureau of Design Type School Building

Local contractors should be accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with a category of at least *Small B for Packages 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and* at least *Medium A for Packages 1 and 12.*

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at the DepEd Division Office of Antique, Brgy. San Jose de Buenavista Antique starting *November 17, 2003* for a non-refundable fee of *One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php1,500.00)* per package. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of *two and half percent (2.5%)* of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education – Division Office of Antique, Brgy. San Jose de Buenavista, Antique on or before *10:00 a.m., December 16, 2003*, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

5. Prior to Bid Opening, a Pre-Bid Conference will be held on *10:00 a.m., December 2, 2003* at the same address indicated above.

(Sgd.) ROBERT R. GARCIA
Division Bids and Awards Committee
Chairperson

(PDI–Nov. 16, 2003)

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2:00 pm THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20th, 2003
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ANTIPOLO

Property No. 1 – Lot Only LA: 216 sq.m.
B3/L3 Cascadas Subd., Brgy Bayugo
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,015,200

P-No. 2 Lot Only LA: 649 sq.m.
B5/L17 Cottonwood Heights Subd. Brgy Bayugo
Minimum Bid Price: Php 3,050,300

P-No. 3 Lot Only LA: 303 sq.m.
B10/L3 Cottonwood Heights Subd. Brgy Bayugo
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,424,100

P-No. 4 – Lot Only LA: 283 sq.m.
B14/L14 Cottonwood Heights Subd. Brgy Bayugo
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,330,100

P-No. 5 – Lot Only LA: 219 sq.m.
B14/L13 Cottonwood Heights Subd. Brgy Bayugo
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,029,300

P-No. 6 – Lot Only LA: 335 sq.m.
B1/L20 Polinge Hills Subd. Brgy Bayugo
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,574,500

P-No. 7 – Lot Only LA: 267 sq.m.
B3/L1 Polinge Hills Subd. Brgy Bayugo
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,254,900

P-No. 8 – Lot Only LA: 252 sq.m.
L2/Psd 04-142064 Gardens of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 882,000

P-No. 9 – Lot Only LA: 226 sq.m.
B14/L20 Gardens of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 791,000

P-No. 10 – Lot Only LA: 161 sq.m.
B7/L28 Gardens of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 563,500

P-No. 11 Lot Only LA: 191 sq.m.
B7/L30 Gardens of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 668,500

P-No. 12 Lot Only LA: 240 sq.m.
B8/L21 Gardens of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 840,000

P-No. 13 – Lot Only LA: 293 sq.m.
B4/L33 Hills of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,025,500

P-No. 14 Lot Only LA: 237 sq.m.
B4 L32 Hills of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 829,500

P-No. 15 Lot Only LA: 200 sq.m.
B1-L36 Hills of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 700,000

P-No. 16 Lot Only LA: 173 sq.m.
B4-L33 Hills of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 605,500

P-No. 17 Lot Only LA: 167 sq.m.
B1 L34 Hills of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 584,500

P-No. 18 – Lot Only LA: 186 sq.m.
B9 L10 Hills of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 651,000

P-No. 19 Lot Only LA: 196 sq.m.
B9 L14 Hills of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 686,000

P-No. 20 – Lot Only LA: 164 sq.m.
B2-L6 Main Alta, M. L. Quezon Ave
Minimum Bid Price: Php 574,000

P-No. 21 – Lot Only LA: 168 sq.m.
B2/L8 Main Alta, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 588,000

P-No. 22 Lot Only LA: 162 sq.m.
B2/L5 Main Alta, M. L. Quezon Ave
Minimum Bid Price: Php 567,000

CALOOCAN

P-No. 23 – Lot Only LA: 87 sq.m.
B6/L9 Grande Vita Subd., Galas Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 261,000

P-No. 24 – Lot Only LA: 89 sq.m.
B6/L10 Grande Vita Subd., Galas Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 267,000

P-No. 25 – Lot Only LA: 92 sq.m.
B6/L11 Grande Vita Subd., Galas Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 276,000

P-No. 26 – Lot Only LA: 169 sq.m.
B7/L21 Grande Vita Subd., Galas Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 507,000

P-No. 27 Lot Only LA: 112 sq.m.
B7/L22 Grande Vita Subd., Galas Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 336,000

P-No. 28 Lot Only LA: 82 sq.m.
B7/L23 Grande Vita Subd., Galas Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 246,000

P-No. 29 Lot Only LA: 129 sq.m.
B7/L24 Grande Vita Subd., Galas Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 387,000

P-No. 30 Lot Only LA: 166 sq.m.
B2/L25 Residenza 2 Subd., Depare Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 913,000

CAVITE (BACOOR)

P-No. 31 Lot Only LA: 304 sq.m.
B6 L1 Lessinia de Citta Italia, Brgy. Mambog 3
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,368,000

P.No. 32 – Lot Only LA: 244 sq.m.
B9 L24 Lessinia de Citta Italia, Brgy. Mambog 3
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,098,000

P/No. 33 Lot Only LA: 163 sq.m.
B1 L24 Roma de Citta Italia, Brgy. Mambog 3
Minimum Bid Price: Php 733,500

P/No. 34 – Lot Only LA: 148 sq.m.
B14-L19 Roma de Citta Italia, Brgy. Mambog 3
Minimum Bid Price: Php 666,000

P/No. 35 – Lot Only LA: 217 sq.m.
B14-L17 Venezia de Citta Italia, Brgy. Mambog 3
Minimum Bid Price: Php 976,500

P-No. 36 – Lot Only LA: 209 sq.m.
B7-L33 Verona de Citta Italia, Brgy. Mambog 3
Minimum Bid Price: Php 940,500

P-No. 37 – Lot Only LA: 139 sq.m.
B7-L34 Verona de Citta Italia, Brgy. Mambog 3
Minimum Bid Price: Php 625,500

CAVITE (DASMARINAS)

P-No. 38 Lot Only LA: 605 sq.m.
B11/L10 Island Park Subd., Phase 1, Brgy Paliparan
Minimum Bid Price: Php 3,932,500

P-No. 39 – Lot Only LA: 340 sq.m.
B1-L9 Island Park Subd., Phase 1, Brgy Paliparan
Minimum Bid Price: Php 2,210,000

LAGUNA (SAN PEDRO)

P-No. 40 Lot Only LA: 219 sq.m.
B11/L1 La Marea 1 Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,029,300

P-No. 41 – Lot Only LA: 202 sq.m.
B11-L2 La Marea 1 Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 949,400

P-No. 42 – Lot Only LA: 185 sq.m.
B14 L1 La Marea 1 Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 869,500

P-No. 43 – Lot Only LA: 264 sq.m.
B1 L41 La Marea Hills Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,240,800

P-No. 44 Lot Only LA: 283 sq.m.
B9 L4 Trails of La Marea Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,330,100

LAGUNA (STA. ROSA)

P-No. 45 – Lot Only LA: 578 sq.m.
B7 L17 Belle Reve Subd., Brgy. Don Jose
Minimum Bid Price: Php 3,468,000

P-No. 46 – Lot Only LA: 840 sq.m.
B11/L19 Belle Reve Subd., Brgy. Don Jose
Minimum Bid Price: Php 5,040,000

P-No. 47 – Lot Only LA: 681 sq.m.
B11/L21 Belle Reve Subd., Brgy. Don Jose
Minimum Bid Price: Php 4,086,000

P-No. 48 – Lot Only LA: 720 sq.m.
L2079-A-3-D-3-C-4 Brgy. Don Jose
Minimum Bid Price: Php 3,600,000

P-No. 49 – Lot Only LA: 216 sq.m.
B16/L9 La Residencia De Santa Rosa,
Brgy. Don Jose
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,188,000

P-No. 50 – Lot Only LA: 182 sq.m.
B17/L27 La Residencia De Santa Rosa,
Brgy. Don Jose
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,001,000

LAS PINAS

P-No. 51 – Lot Only LA: 420 sq.m.
B26/L38 Cul De Sac, Lourdes Atienza St.,
BF Reson Village
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,890,000

MAKATI

P-No. 52 – Commercial Condo. FA: 66.40 sq.m.
Unit 2310 Cityland 10 Condominium,
H. V. dela Costa St.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,992,000

P-No. 53 – Commercial Condo. FA: 81.28 sq.m.
Unit 2311 Cityland 10 Condominium, H. V. dela
Costa St.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 2,438,400

P-No. 54 – Residential Condo. FA: 69.65 sq.m.
Unit 417 Makati Terraces Condo., Davila St.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,393,000

PARANAQUE

P-No. 55 House & Lot LA: 280 sq.m.
FA: 200 sq.m.
No. 22 Canton St., BF Executive Village
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,960,000

QUEZON CITY

P-No. 56 Lot Only LA: 243 sq.m.
B2/L25 La Brea Subd., Fairview
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,701,000

P-No. 57 – Lot Only LA: 276 sq.m.
B4/L35 La Brea Subd., Fairview
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,932,000

P-No. 58 – Lot Only LA: 306 sq.m.
B1-L1 La Brea Subd., Fairview
Minimum Bid Price: Php 2,142,000

P-No. 59 – House & Lot LA: 601 sq.m./
FA: 106 sq.m.
No. 47 Pallmall St., East Fairview
Minimum Bid Price: Php 2,404,000

P-No. 60 – Residential Condo. FA: 66.15 sq.m.
Unit 5D Timog Condo. Centre Apts., Panay Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 992,250

RIZAL (TAYTAY)

P-No. 61 Lot Only LA: 96.58 sq.m.
B7A/L20B Palmera Homes 3, Brgy. Dolores
Minimum Bid Price: Php 193,000

P-No. 62 – Lot Only LA: 125 sq.m.
B6/L13 Palmera Homes 3, Brgy. Dolores
Minimum Bid Price: Php 250,000

RIZAL (TERESA)

P-No. 63 – Lot Only LA: 80 sq.m.
B16/L13 La Hacienda Subd
Minimum Bid Price: Php 240,000

P-No. 64 Lot Only LA: 63 sq.m.
B16 L14 La Hacienda Subd
Minimum Bid Price: Php 189,000

P-No. 65 – Lot Only LA: 63 sq.m.
B16/L15 La Hacienda Subd
Minimum Bid Price: Php 189,000

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ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON AN "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". PROPERTIES AND PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGES WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Negros Oriental
Provincial General Services Office
Dumaguete City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Negros Oriental invites all licensed security agencies and suppliers of hospital and laboratory equipment to pre-qualify and submit sealed bids for the following requirements, viz.

1. **CY 2004 SECURITY SERVICES REQUIREMENT:**
   Twenty-Seven (27) guards to be assigned to the different provincial offices and facilities.
2. **FOUR (4) UNITS MEDICAL EQUIPMENT:**
   a.) **One (1) Unit Fully-Automated Hematology Analyzer**
   b.) **One (1) Unit Anesthesia Machine**
   c.) **One (1) Unit Class Safety Cabinet FS Stand for Seated Position**
   d.) **One (1) Unit Pulse Oximeter**

All bidders must be pre-qualified and accredited not later than November 27, 2003. The list of pre-qualification requirements may be obtained from the Committee on Awards Secretariat (Provincial General Services Office).

Sealed bids for the various **Hospital and Laboratory Equipment** will be accepted on or before **November 28, 2003** not later than 10:00 o'clock in the morning by the Committee on Awards at the Provincial General Services Office, Capitol Area, Dumaguete City, at which time and place said bid proposals will be opened.

For the **Security Services Requirement**, sealed bids will be accepted on or before **December 3, 2003** also not later than 10:00 o'clock in the morning by the Committee on Awards at Provincial General Services Office at which time and place said bid proposals will be opened. A Pre-Bid Conference for the Security Services Requirement is scheduled on November 27, 2003 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the same venue.

The Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose bid proposal as evaluated by the Committee is the most advantageous to the government, nor to indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ISMAEL P. MARTINEZ
Provincial General Services Officer

(PDI – November 16, 2003)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
TOLL REGULATORY BOARD

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION

NORTH LUZON AND SOUTH LUZON EXPRESSWAYS
APPROVED TOLL RATE INCREASE

Notice is hereby given that in the Matter of Petition for Review of the Toll Rate Adjustment Granted by the Toll Regulatory Board to the Philippine National Construction Corporation for the North (Balintawak to Sta. Ines) and South (Alabang to Calamba) Luzon Expressways filed by the Southern Luzon Bus Operators' Association and Federation of Concerned Organization of Balut, as Petitioners, versus, the Philippine National Construction Corporation, as Respondent, the Toll Regulatory Board, after lengthy public hearings conducted for the purpose, has determined and decided that:

> **"WHEREFORE, the 29% adjustment in toll rates using the Return on Rate Base (RORB) Formula that was approved by the Board for the North Luzon and South Luzon Expressways, rounded off to the nearest peso, are hereby declared reasonable and the Instant Petitions are hereby DISMISSED."**

The following rates will therefore be implemented starting **01 December 2003** after publishing the same once a week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation.

A. SOUTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY

CLASS 1 (Cars, Jeepneys, Pick-ups, Vans)

ENTRY/EXIT POINTS	ALA	FIL	SUS HTS	SNPED	SWOODS	CAR	MAM	STR	ABI	CAB
Alabang										
Filinvest										
Susana Heights	2.00	1.00								
San Pedro	2.00	2.00	1.00							
Southwoods	3.00	3.00	2.00	1.00						
Carmona	4.00	4.00	2.00	2.00	1.00					
Mamplasan	5.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	1.00	1.00				
Sta. Rosa	6.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	1.00			
ABI/Greenfield	7.00	6.00	5.00	5.00	3.00	3.00	2.00	1.00		
Cabuyao	7.00	7.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	2.00	1.00	
Silangan	8.00	7.00	6.00	6.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	1.00	1.00
Calamba	10.00	9.00	8.00	7.00	6.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	2.00

CLASS 2 (Light Trucks, Tourist/School & PUB, Class 1 w/Trailer, Class 1-7 ft. & above ht.)

ENTRY/EXIT POINTS	ALA	FIL	SUS HTS	SNPED	SWOODS	CAR	MAM	STR	ABI	CAB
Alabang										
Filinvest										
Susana Heights	3.00	2.00								
San Pedro	4.00	3.00	1.00							
Southwoods	7.00	6.00	4.00	3.00						
Carmona	8.00	7.00	5.00	4.00	1.00					
Mamplasan	10.00	9.00	6.00	5.00	3.00	2.00				
Sta. Rosa	11.00	10.00	8.00	7.00	4.00	3.00	2.00			
ABI/Greenfield	13.00	13.00	10.00	9.00	7.00	6.00	4.00	2.00		
Cabuyao	15.00	14.00	12.00	11.00	8.00	7.00	5.00	4.00	1.00	
Silangan	16.00	15.00	13.00	12.00	9.00	8.00	6.00	5.00	2.00	1.00
Calamba	19.00	18.00	16.00	15.00	12.00	11.00	9.00	8.00	6.00	4.00

CLASS 3 (Heavy & Multi-Axled Trucks/Trailers)

ENTRY/EXIT POINTS	ALA	FIL	SUS HTS	SNPED	SWOODS	CAR	MAM	STR	ABI	CAB
Alabang										
Filinvest										
Susana Heights	5.00	4.00								
San Pedro	6.00	5.00	2.00							
Southwoods	10.00	9.00	5.00	4.00						
Carmona	12.00	11.00	7.00	5.00	2.00					
Mamplasan	14.00	13.00	10.00	8.00	4.00	3.00				
Sta. Rosa	17.00	16.00	12.00	10.00	6.00	5.00	2.00			
ABI/Greenfield	20.00	19.00	15.00	14.00	10.00	8.00	6.00	3.00		
Cabuyao	22.00	21.00	17.00	16.00	12.00	10.00	8.00	5.00	2.00	
Silangan	24.00	22.00	19.00	17.00	13.00	12.00	9.00	7.00	4.00	1.00
Calamba	29.00	27.00	24.00	22.00	18.00	17.00	14.00	12.00	8.00	6.00

Note: The Metro Manila Skyway System (At-Grade Section from Magallanes to Alabang and the Elevated Section) is excluded in the above toll rate increase.

B. NORTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY

CLASS 1 (Cars, Jeepneys, Pick-ups, Vans)

ENTRY/EXIT POINTS	BWK	VAL	MEY	MAR	BOC	GUI	STR	PUL	SNM	SNF	MEX	ANG	DAU
Mapulang Lupa	2.00												
Valenzuela	2.00												
Lawang Bato	3.00	1.00											
Meycauayan	4.00	2.00											
St. Francis	4.00	2.00											
Marilao	5.00	3.00	1.00										
Bocaue	6.00	4.00	2.00	1.00									
Balagtas	8.00	6.00	4.00	3.00	2.00								
Guiguinto	8.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	2.00								
Tabang	9.00	7.00	6.00	4.00	3.00	1.00							
Sta. Rita	10.00	8.00	6.00	5.00	4.00								
Pulilan	12.00	10.00	8.00	7.00	6.00		2.00						
San Simon	16.00	14.00	12.00	11.00	10.00		6.00	4.00					
San Fernando	19.00	17.00	15.00	14.00	13.00		9.00	7.00	3.00				
Mexico	21.00	19.00	17.00	16.00	15.00		11.00	9.00	5.00	2.00			
Angeles	24.00	22.00	20.00	19.00	18.00		14.00	12.00	8.00	5.00	3.00		
Dau	25.00	23.00	21.00	20.00	19.00		15.00	13.00	9.00	6.00	4.00	1.00	
Sta. Ines	26.00	24.00	23.00	22.00	20.00		17.00	14.00	11.00	8.00	6.00	3.00	2.00

CLASS 2 (Light Trucks, Tourist/School & PUB, Class 1 w/Trailer, Class 1-7 ft. & above ht.)

ENTRY/EXIT POINTS	BWK	VAL	MEY	MAR	BOC	GUI	STR	PUL	SNM	SNF	MEX	ANG	DAU
Mapulang Lupa	3.00												
Valenzuela	4.00												
Lawang Bato	5.00	1.00											
Meycauayan	7.00	3.00											
St. Francis	8.00	3.00											
Marilao	9.00	5.00	2.00										
Bocaue	12.00	8.00	5.00	3.00									
Balagtas	15.00	11.00	8.00	6.00	3.00								
Guiguinto	17.00	13.00	9.00	7.00	5.00								
Tabang	18.00	14.00	11.00	9.00	6.00	2.00							
Sta. Rita	19.00	15.00	12.00	10.00	7.00								
Pulilan	24.00	20.00	17.00	15.00	12.00		5.00						
San Simon	32.00	27.00	24.00	22.00	20.00		12.00	8.00					
San Fernando	37.00	33.00	30.00	28.00	25.00		18.00	13.00	6.00				
Mexico	42.00	38.00	34.00	32.00	30.00		22.00	18.00	10.00	4.00			
Angeles	48.00	43.00	40.00	38.00	36.00		28.00	24.00	16.00	10.00	6.00		
Dau	49.00	45.00	42.00	40.00	37.00		30.00	25.00	18.00	12.00	7.00	2.00	
Sta. Ines	53.00	49.00	46.00	43.00	41.00		33.00	29.00	21.00	15.00	11.00	5.00	4.00

CLASS 3 (Heavy & Multi-Axled Trucks/Trailers)

ENTRY/EXIT POINTS	BWK	VAL	MEY	MAR	BOC	GUI	STR	PUL	SNM	SNF	MEX	ANG	DAU
Mapulang Lupa	5.00												
Valenzuela	6.00												
Lawang Bato	8.00	2.00											
Meycauayan	11.00	5.00											
St. Francis	11.00	5.00											
Marilao	14.00	8.00	3.00										
Bocaue	18.00	12.00	7.00	4.00									
Balagtas	23.00	17.00	12.00	9.00	5.00								
Guiguinto	25.00	19.00	14.00	11.00	7.00								
Tabang	28.00	21.00	17.00	13.00	10.00	3.00							
Sta. Rita	29.00	23.00	18.00	15.00	11.00								
Pulilan	36.00	30.00	25.00	22.00	18.00		7.00						
San Simon	47.00	41.00	37.00	33.00	29.00		18.00	11.00					
San Fernando	56.00	50.00	45.00	42.00	38.00		27.00	20.00	9.00				
Mexico	62.00	56.00	52.00	48.00	45.00		33.00	27.00	15.00	6.00			
Angeles	71.00	65.00	61.00	57.00	53.00		42.00	35.00	24.00	15.00	9.00		
Dau	74.00	68.00	63.00	60.00	56.00		45.00	38.00	26.00	18.00	11.00	2.00	
Sta. Ines	79.00	73.00	68.00	65.00	61.00		50.00	43.00	32.00	23.00	17.00	8.00	5.00

SO ORDERED.

By Authority of the Board
(Sgd.) JAIME S. DUMLAO, JR.
Executive Director

(PDI – November 16, 21 & 28, 2003)

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES BAGUIO
Governor Pack Road, Baguio City, Telefax: (074) 442-3888
www.upb.edu.ph; bac@upb.edu.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A FOUR-STOREY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE COMPLEX BUILDING LOCATED AT GOVERNOR PACK ROAD, BAGUIO CITY, WITH AN APPROVED AGENCY BUDGET OF PHP13,500,000.00 FROM U.P. SYSTEM REPROGRAMMED FUNDS)

The U.P. Baguio Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites PCAB-licensed contractors belonging to at least Medium A Category to apply for eligibility and to bid for the contractor of the above-cited project, in accordance with the IRR of Republic Act No. 9184.

Please submit a letter of intent (LOI) to the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Administration not later than December 7, 2003 and obtain a checklist of the required documents and eligibility criteria upon submission of the LOI.

ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING SCHEDULE

1. Submission of eligibility documents – November 24-December 7, 2003. Documents may be submitted to the Budget Office c/o Mr. Remigio Natnat.
2. Issuance of bid documents – December 8-19. Bid documents may be obtained from the Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 5,000.00 (Look for Mr. Jun Movilla).
3. Pre-Bid Conference – January 5, 2004, 9:00 a.m. Chancellor's Conference Room, (Eligible applicants are required to attend.)
4. Last day for submitting sealed bids and opening of bids – January 19, 2004. Bids must be received at the Chancellor's Office not later than 8:30 a.m. Bids submitted after 8:30 shall be automatically disqualified. Opening of bids starts at 9:00 a.m. Attendance is required.
5. Bid Evaluation – January 20-23, 2004
6. Post-Qualification – January 26-31
7. Award of Contract – February 1-6

The U.P. Baguio reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal is deemed the most advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) BENITO C. CARDENAS
Vice-Chancellor for Administration

(PDI – November 16, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Manila

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital invites interested accredited bidders/suppliers to bid for the following:

		PRE-BID	OPENING	ABC
I.	Service Contract			
	a. Security Services	Nov. 27, 2003, 9:00am	Dec. 9, 2003 9:00am	P2,000,000.00
	b. Laundry Services	-do-	-do-	2,500,000.00
II.	Foodstuff	Nov. 27, 2003 2:00pm	Dec. 9, 2003 2:00pm	3,476,438.00
III.	Medical Supplies	Nov. 28, 2003 9:00am	Dec. 10, 2003 9:00am	13,400,000.00
IV.	Laboratory Supplies	-do-	Dec. 10, 2003 2:00pm	3,538,289.00
V.	Dermatological/Antiseptic/ Disinfectant	Nov. 28, 2003 2:00pm	Dec. 11, 2003 9:00am	450,825.00
	Dental Supplies	-do-	-do-	27,956.00
VI.	Radiology/Ultrasound/ Internist	-do-	Dec. 11, 2003 2:00pm	277,045.00
	Miscellaneous Supplies	-do-	-do-	180,840.00
	Linen & Laundry Supplies	-do-	-do-	610,540.00
VII.	Drugs and Medicines	Dec. 3, 2003 9:00am	Dec. 15, 2003, 2:00pm	35,000,000.00
IX.	Various Medical Instruments	Dec. 4, 2003 9:00am	Dec. 17, 2003 9:00am	1,000,000.00
X.	Various Medical Equipment	-do- 2:00pm	Dec. 17, 2003 2:00pm	9,900,000.00

Only responsible and duly accredited manufacturers and/or exclusive distributors or suppliers as certified by the DOH Accreditation Committee are qualified to participate. Bid documents and eligibility requirements may be secured from the BAC Secretariat, Administrative Office upon payment of corresponding fee which is not refundable. For inquiries, contact the Secretariat at telephone numbers 735-71-44; 734-55-61 loc. 109.

All particulars relative to eligibility, bid bond, performance bond, evaluation, postqualification and award shall be governed by the provisions of the existing rules and regulations.

The DJFMH reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality found therein and to accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) MARIE THERESE A. PACABIS
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI—Nov. 16 & 22, 2003)

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For our growing store operations
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- at least 5'3"

Apply in person at
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3741 Bautista St.
Palanan Makati City
Tel. 551-90-11
Bring resumé, picture & NBI Clearance
M-F 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

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Leather Sewer
0916-3293173

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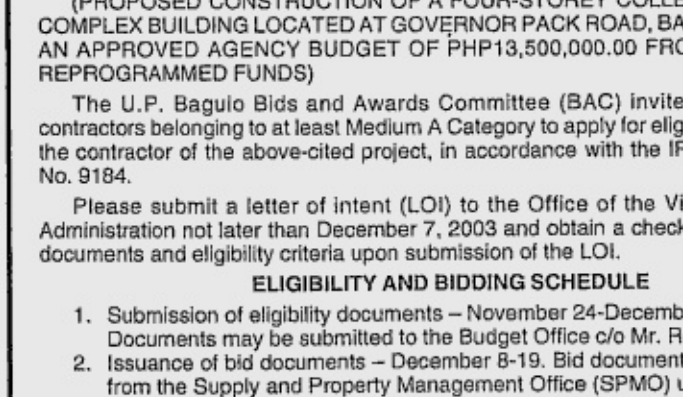

SMARTY TOYS CORP. – JUNIOR INQUIRER TIE-UP

No less than the leading children's weekly paper – Junior Inquirer – ties up with Smarty Toys' Super Yoyo Hyper Level Tour. Junior Inquirer now joins the yoyo masters as they do the rounds of selected private schools all over Metro Manila. The tie-up was sealed in a memorandum of agreement signed by Mr. Ruben Yu – General Manager; Smarty Toys Corp. (3rd from left) and Mr. Donald Patrick Lim – Asst. Vice President for Marketing and Classified Ads, Philippine Daily Inquirer (2nd from left) held at the Philippine Daily Inquirer head office on Oct. 15, 2003. Witnesses to the signing are Ms. Mary Jane Lim – Operations Manager, Janaworld Marketing Corp. (left) and Mr. Johnson Lim – General Manager, Janaworld Marketing Corp. (4th from left).

2ND INVITATION TO UNDERTAKE THE PROPOSED ISABEL, LEYTE, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, REGION VIII, RECLAMATION PROJECT UNDER A JOINT VENTURE ARRANGEMENT

The Municipality of Isabel, Leyte (Municipality) is inviting interested parties to submit proposal to undertake the reclamation and development of about One Hundred Twenty Eight (128) hectares of foreshore and offshore areas (Project) along Dupong Bay, Isabel, Leyte intended for mixed use development such as commercial, industrial, residential, among others.

The Project shall be undertaken on a joint venture arrangement with the Municipality whereby the Proponent/Developer shall advance all costs of reclamation and development and shall be paid in the form of land rental or land to be reclaimed.

The Proponent/Developer must show proof of its legal, technical and financial capability and must submit the following pre-qualification documents attached to its letter of intent addressed to the Municipality to undertake the Project.

1. Non-Refundable Filing Fee in the amount of P22,000.00 inclusive of VAT payable to the Municipality in the form of cash, manager's check or cashier's check;
2. Original copy of SEC Certification of Good Standing/Record;
3. Complete set of legal documents of the organization, i.e., Company Profile for Principal Proponent and each firm and members of consortium, SEC Registration, Articles of Incorporation & By-Laws, and Company Profile, Business Registration and License Papers;
4. Audited Financial Statements for the last three (3) years (balance sheet and income statement) of Principal Proponent duly filed/stamped received by BIR;
5. Affidavit of Undertaking that if awarded the contract, to provide financing for the Project estimated to be not less than P1.587 Billion.
6. Credit lines in specific amount issued and certified by reputable banks and financing institutions;

All qualified Proponent(s)/Developer(s) shall be advised to submit project Pre-Feasibility Study and Financial Proposal which shall be the basis of award by Municipality of the Project.

Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent to undertake the Project including required attachments shall be on December 16, 2003 at the office of the Mayor, Isabel, Leyte Tel. Nos. (053) 337-2063, not later than 5:00 p.m.

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. FUENTES, JR.
Municipal Mayor

(PDI–November 16, 17 & 18, 2003)

WANTED FINANCE OFFICER
WORK EXPERIENCE PREFERRED
IN LENDING/CREDIT
PHIL UND FOR SOCIAL HOUSING (PUSH)
Tel No: 911-7918
Email: push@philonline.com

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Consultancy for the Technical Assessment of the GOP-UN Multi-Donor Programme Phase 3 (MDP3)

1. The Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCo), as the Executing Agency for the GOP-UN Multi-Donor Programme Phase 3 (MDP3), invites individual consultants to become part of the Evaluation Mission Team to provide overall assessment of the results achieved by the Programme in partnership with the key stakeholders, draw lessons learned and recommend improvements on the Programme particularly on:
   a. Substantive aspects including the concept, objectives, and deliverables of each of the eight (8) Programme components as well as its implementation status;
   b. Operational aspects of the Programme including the functions, roles and responsibilities of relevant players from management to implementation; and,
   c. Mechanisms to document lessons learned.
2. Four (4) consultants shall be selected in accordance with the procedures set by the MEDCo/MDP3 to compose the Mission Team consist of a Team Leader and 3 members. Applicants should have extensive background on reproductive health, sustainable agriculture and community enterprise, and local governance and peace building.
3. Interested consultants are required to submit the following by 21 November 2003:
   a. Letter of Intent;
   b. Comprehensive Curriculum Vitae;
   c. Description of similar works/assignments undertaken; and,
   d. Experience in similar conditions

   to:

ATTY. JESUS G. DUREZA
Presidential Assistant for Mindanao,
MEDCo Chairman, and
GOP-UN MDP3 National Programme Director
Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCo) Secretariat
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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2003

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Monday to Sunday
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OBITUARIES

CLARITO VITO ENRIQUEZ

Jon-Jon & Jet-Jet Caltex Service Station
Lemery, Batangas

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on November 12, 2003 at the age of 72.

His wife **LUISA** (†); his bereaved children **Joebert** and **Joselito**, daughters-in-law **Arlyn** and **Sophia**; grandchildren **Jyn**, **Jygs**, **Jye**, **Jyo**, **Jyl** and **JC**; sisters **Luzviminda** and **Aurora**; brother **Dante** (†); brothers-in-law **Arturo**, **Ramon**, **Felicito Sr.** (†); **Idilio**, **Leopoldo** and **Nanding**; sisters-in-law **Susing**, **Gloria**, **Baby**, **Nena** and **Nanie**; nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Enriquez residence in Lemery, Batangas.

Interment will be on November 18, 2003, Tuesday, at the Christian Memorial Park, Palanas, Lemery, Batangas after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at the San Roque Parish Lemery, Batangas.

Our Beloved Mama
CUA SY CHIU HA

Peacefully joined her Creator on November 12, 2003 at the age of 70.

Her beloved husband **Cua Hong "Jimmy Young (†)"**, children **Doris & Willie Lee, Mary & Philip Yao, Julie & Willy Lam, Susan & Woody Sze, Joseph & Armida Santos, Ruby & Robin Kaw, Karina & Danny Yu, Nelson & Rachel Ricafort, Jonathan & Irene Lim**, and grandchildren request you to join us in prayer.

Her remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Chapel A, North Wing, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment on Nov. 17, 2003 12noon. She will be cremated at the Chinese Crematory then interred at the Mt. Carmel Church.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage ..." Psalm 23:4

Our Love for him never dies...
In Memory of a loving Husband and our Papang

COL. RODOLFO B. VILLANUEVA

Peacefully joined his Creator on November 13, 2003 at the age of 71.

His loving wife, **Puring**; children, **Romie** and **Malou, Uly** and **Dina, Dante** and **Babette, Jun** and **Chona, Beda** and **Joseph, Sheryl**; grandchildren **Princess, Hubbah, Batchai, Unyah, Dianne, Dann Reuben, Tedd Francis, Jobe (†)**; Brothers, Sisters and In-laws, request the pious readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at the Premiere 2 of Loyola Memorial Park, Guadalupe, Makati.

Interment will be on Wednesday, November 19, 2003 at Heritage Memorial Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig after 10:00 a.m. Mass.

"For God so Loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have life everlasting."
John 3:16

FRANCISCO "Kit" D. YAO

September 9, 1964 - November 12, 2003

beloved son of Rosario D. Yao
beloved brother of Teresita, Adriano, Gregorio, Emiliano, Felix, Victorino, and Carmencita

His loving wife **Jacinta**; children **Francis Kevin, Franciz Kyle** and **Jyasmin Knicole**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at 312 Lukas St., Bacood, Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 18, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Bacood, Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of our dearly beloved

HONORIO SEGUI RAMOS

June 12, 1924 – October 18, 2003

wish to extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all our relatives and friends who spent precious time with us and expressed in many other ways their love, concern and support during our time of sorrow.

Message of Thanks

We, the family and relatives of the late

PRESENTACION TOLENTINO GONDA

who joined her Creator on Nov. 4, 2003

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

PACITA S. LAO

Peacefully joined her Creator on November 14, 2003 at the age of 62.

Her loving husband JOY; children & daughter-in-law VICTOR and JOAN, ROBERT, MARY and relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, November 20, 2003 at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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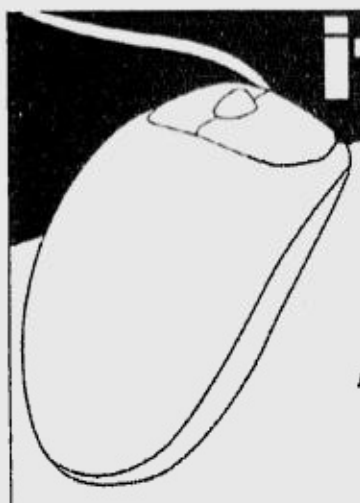

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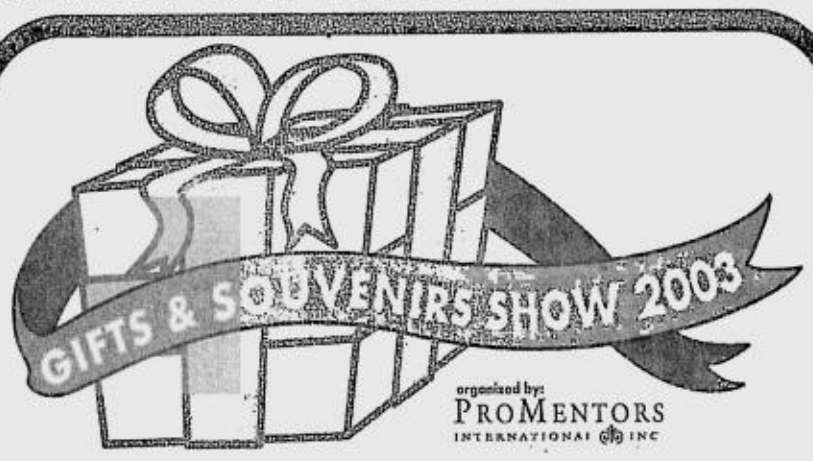

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The Board of Directors and members of the

German Club Manila 1906

mourn the death of their long time member

HERMANN WOLF

Honorary Member
Past President, 1988 – 1991

who passed away after a long illness on 13 November 2003 at the age of 68.

His remains lie in state at his residence in 152 Purok 1, Pansol, Calamba, Laguna.

Cremation will take place on Wednesday, 19th November at the Eternal Garden at Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

†

HERMANN WOLF

14. August 1935 – 13. November 2003

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John 3:16

CLASSIFIEDS

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM
Diliman, Quezon City
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

A. The University of the Philippines Diliman hereby invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility for the bidding of:

ONE (1) LOT - SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF CENTRALIZED AIRCONDITIONING SYSTEM

B. The following eligibility requirements in two copies, duly certified must be submitted to the Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO) at Instructional Materials Corp. Building (National Book Development Board), A. Regidor Street fronting the PAG-ASA Astronomical Observatory, U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City, to form the basis for evaluation and assessment for pre-qualification of bidders:

1. SEC/DTI/Cooperative Development Registration Papers
2. 2003 Business License/Permit
3. Income Tax Return for the last two (2) years (2001 & 2002) with accompanying Audited Financial Statements marked "received" by the BIR
4. Company Profile
5. List of clients and references and supporting documents
6. List of company equipment and other assets
7. Duly notarized statement of the duly authorized representative of the company that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, offices or corporations

DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS WILL BE LISTED IN THE BIDDING DOCUMENTS

The above mentioned requirements must be completely submitted in two (2) separate folders with Table of Contents and properly tabbed. Otherwise, the same will not be accepted by the SPMO.

NOTE: "ONLY ELIGIBLE BIDDERS WILL BE ISSUED THE INVITATION TO BID DOCUMENTS AND BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING.

C. Deadline for submission: November 25, 2003
D. Pre-bidding and bidding schedules shall be announced to all eligible bidders.
E. The University of the Philippines reserves the right to review the qualifications of all selected bidders, subject to technical, financial and production criteria, reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the offer considered most advantageous to the University.
F. For further particulars, please inquire from Mr. Pedro E. Fajardo, Chief, SPMO, anytime during office hours at the above mentioned address or call Tel. No. 920-5374 (direct line) and 920-5301 local 4331, 4911 and 4913.

(Sgd.) EMERLINDA R. ROMAN
Chancellor

(Sgd.) AMELIA P. GUEVARA
Officer-In-Charge
U.P. Diliman

(PDI - Nov. 16 & 23, 2003)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Office of the Secretary of National Defense (OSND) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements for CY 2004:

	SERVICE	APPROVED BUDGET
1.	Building Janitorial Services	P 4,214,000.00
2.	Pest Control	546,000.00
3.	Servicing of Air-conditioning units	996,000.00
4.	Local Newspapers	693,000.00
5.	Purified Water	555,000.00
6.	Rental of Copier Machines	1,910,000.00

Bidders are requested to submit the following documents/requirements for eligibility on or before November 21, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at the Procurement Branch, Office of the Administrative Services, DND, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, telephone number 911-6118.

1. SEC/DTI Registration
2. Articles of Incorporation/Partnership
3. Latest Business/License Permit (2000)
4. Audited Financial Statements (attach ITR) for the last two years
5. VAT Registration Certificate
6. List of clients for the last 2 years
7. Certificate from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the National Labor Relations Council (NLRC) that no labor case has been filed against the bidder

Inquiries for the details and particulars on instructions to bidders, bid documents, and other details shall also be provided during office hours at the Office of Administrative Services, OSND. A pre-bid conference shall be held on November 27, 2003 at 2:00 p.m., OASP Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DND Building, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of bid proposals and opening of bids will be on December 12, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. for items 1, 2 & 3 and at 2:00 p.m. those tenders for items 4, 5 & 6 will be on the same date at the OASP Conference Room, DND Bldg., Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The OSND reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the Contract to the bidders whose proposal is the most advantageous to the government as Evaluated by the OSND Bids and Awards Committee (OSND BAC).

This invitation is also posted in the DBM Procurement Service website at www.procurementservice.org. The public is likewise informed that henceforth, invitations to bid for procurements costing P2M and below shall be posted in the websites of the DBM Procurement Service and of the AFP website, in accordance with the Implementing Rules & Regulations of R.A. 9184. Further, such bids shall also be posted at a conspicuous place in the premises of the DBM Procurement Service and the Department of National Defense (DND).

(Sgd.) ATTY. JOSE N. FERRER, JR.
Assistant Secretary

(PDI - Nov 16 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project
Bids and Awards Committee
Division of Romblon

November 16, 2003

INVITATION FOR BIDS
(IFB No. RBN-SBP-0203)

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperative (JBIC) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of fund to cover eligible payments for Civil Works Component of the Project. Bidding is open to eligible bidders classified by and registered with Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) on registration and classification of at least Small "B" for packages 3, 4, 5 & 6 for building from eligible source countries defined in the guidelines for procurement under the JBIC Loans.

The Division Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following packages:

A. **Package 3: RBN-03-002-0058**
I. Municipality of Cajidiocan
- Repair of one (1) unit – Six (6) Classrooms Marcos Type S.B. at Cajidiocan CES.
- Repair of one (1) unit – Three (3) Classrooms RP-US Type S.B. at Cajidiocan CES

B. **Package 4: RBN-03-003-0059**
I. Municipality of Cajidiocan
- Repair of one (1) unit – Three (3) Classrooms BLSB at Cambalo ES
- Repair of one (1) unit – Two (2) Classrooms Imelda Type S.B. at Cambalo ES
- Repair of one (1) unit – Three (3) Classrooms Imelda Type S.B. at Cambalo ES

C. **Package 5: RBN-03-003-0060**
I. Municipality of Magdiwang
- Repair of one (1) unit – One (1) Classroom Std. MPSB at Ambulong PS
- Repair of one (1) unit – Two (2) Classrooms Std. MPSB at Ambulong PS
- Repair of one (1) unit – Four (4) Classrooms Marcos Type S.B. at Tampayan ES
- Repair of one (1) unit – Two (2) Classrooms Cory Type S.B. at Tampayan ES

D. **Package 6: RBN-12-005-0061**
I. Municipality of San Fernando
- Repair of one (1) unit – Three (3) Classrooms Marcos Type S.B. at Taclobo ES
- Repair of one (1) unit – Five (5) Classrooms Magsaysay Type S.B. at Taclobo ES

Bidding Documents may be purchased at DepEd Division Office of Romblon, Division Project Implementation Support Unit (DPISU) for Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) with address at Brgy. Capaclan, Romblon, Romblon for a non-refundable of Php 1,500.00 for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) calendar days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of at least 2.5% of total bid price with a validity of 118 calendar days and shall be delivered to the Division Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education-Division Office of Romblon, Brgy. Capaclan, Romblon, Romblon on or before 10:00 A.M., **December 16, 2003** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **December 2, 2003** at exactly 10:00 A.M. at the DepEd, Division Office of Romblon in Brgy. Capaclan, Romblon, Romblon. This Document shall form part of the bid documents for the proposed projects.

(Sgd.) JOSE FREDDIE M. MOCON
Chairman
Division Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – November 16, 2003)

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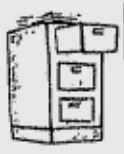

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NOTICE TO INTERESTED BUYERS

The **GSIS ACQUIRED ASSETS EVALUATION COMMITTEE (AAEC)** will conduct a **Negotiated Sale** of the following foreclosed/acquired properties starting November 17, 2003 at the 5th Level RPAMS, GSIS Headquarters Bldg., Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

Mary Homes Subdivision
Molino, Bacoor, Cavite

CODE NO	PROPERTY				AREA (sqm)		Minimum offer price PhP
	TCT NO.	PH	Blk	LOT	Lot	Impv	
SRMH- 0001	821331	IA	4	6	98.0	35.5	381,295
SRMH- 0002	821350	II	2	5	146.0	38.0	378,820
SRMH- 0003	821349	II	2	6	123.0	38.0	333,510
SRMH- 0004	821343	II	2	17	112.5	38.0	312,825
SRMH- 0005	821342	II	2	18	112.5	38.0	312,825
SRMH- 0006	812427	II	3	8	112.5	38.0	312,825
SRMH- 0007	821262	II	3	27	112.5	38.0	312,825
SRMH- 0008	812441	II	3	45	120.0	38.0	271,360
SRMH- 0009	812442	II	3	46	134.0	38.0	355,180
SRMH- 0010	812492	II	4	1	135.0	35.5	349,375
SRMH- 0011	812524	II	4	47	94.5	35.5	269,590
SRMH- 0012	812525	II	4	54	94.5	35.5	269,590
SRMH- 0013	812520	II	4	67	109.5	35.5	349,195
SRMH- 0014	812423	II	5	2	144.5	35.5	368,090
SRMH- 0015	812464	II	5	67	106.0	35.5	241,480
SRMH- 0016	812467	II	6	2	218.0	35.5	512,885
SRMH- 0017	812474	II	6	36	94.5	35.5	214,565
SRMH- 0018	812478	II	6	51	104.0	35.5	286,305
SRMH- 0019	821270	II	8	10	157.0	35.5	359,345
SRMH- 0020	821269	II	8	13	100.0	35.5	205,250
SRMH- 0021	812416	II	9	9	162.0	38.0	349,540
SRMH- 0022	812417	II	10	30	112.5	38.0	312,825
SRMH- 0023	812418	II	10	33	112.5	38.0	312,825
SRMH- 0024	821324	II	11	31	112.5	38.0	367,545
SRMH- 0025	895911	II	11	43	196.0	38.0	430,200
SRMH- 0026	821318	II	11	46	112.5	38.0	312,825
SRMH- 0027	821303	II	17	19	116.0	35.5	311,945
SRMH- 0028	821301	II	17	21	138.0	35.5	300,260
SRMH- 0029	821352	II	1	3	112.5	38.0	499,625
SRMH- 0030	812456	II	5	57	106.0	35.5	342,300
SRMH- 0031	821312	II	2	16	112.5	38.0	312,825

Queen's Row, Phase B
Molino, Bacoor

CODE NO	PROPERTY			AREA (sqm)		Minimum Offer Price PhP
	TCT	Blk	Lot	Lot	Impv	
QRSI- 0001	850891	5	3A	128	35.2	467,660
QRSI- 0002	850892	5	3B	128	35.2	467,660
QRSI- 0003	850893	5	4A	128	35.2	468,960
QRSI- 0004	850894	5	4B	128	35.2	468,960
QRSI- 0005	850895	5	5A	173	35.2	575,400
QRSI- 0006	850896	5	5B	183	35.2	611,960
QRSI- 0007	849082	5	1A	122	35.2	453,360
QRSI- 0008	849083	6	1B	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0009	849084	6	2A	174	35.2	588,560
QRSI- 0010	849085	6	2B	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0011	849086	6	3A	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0012	849087	6	3B	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0013	849088	6	4A	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0014	849089	6	4B	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0015	849090	6	5A	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0016	849091	6	5B	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0017	849092	6	6A	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0018	849093	6	6B	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0019	849094	6	8A	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0020	849095	6	8B	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0021	849096	6	10A	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0022	849097	6	10B	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0023	849098	6	12A	114	35.2	458,680
QRSI- 0024	850903	7	3A	114	35.2	432,560
QRSI- 0025	850904	7	3B	114	35.2	432,560
QRSI- 0026	850905	7	4A	114	35.2	432,560
QRSI- 0027	850906	7	4B	111	35.2	424,760
QRSI- 0028	850907	7	5A	103	35.2	403,960
QRSI- 0029	850908	7	5B	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0030	850909	7	6A	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0031	850910	7	6B	195	35.2	643,160
QRSI- 0032	849116	7	7A	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0033	849117	7	7B	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0034	849118	7	9A	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0035	849119	7	9B	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0036	850913	7	10A	100	35.2	385,600
QRSI- 0037	850914	7	10B	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0038	849120	7	11A	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0039	849121	7	11B	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0040	850915	7	12A	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0041	852709	7	12B	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0042	849122	7	13A	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0043	849123	7	13B	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0044	849100	7	14A	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0045	849101	7	14B	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0046	849124	7	15A	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0047	849125	7	15B	100	35.2	466,000
QRSI- 0048	849102	7	16A	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0049	849103	7	16B	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0050	849126	7	17A	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0051	849127	7	17B	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0052	849104	7	18A	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0053	849129	7	19B	100	35.2	385,600
QRSI- 0054	849106	7	20A	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0055	849107	7	20B	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0056	849130	7	21A	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0057	849108	7	22A	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0058	849109	7	22B	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0059	849133	7	23B	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0060	849134	7	25A	125	35.2	461,160
QRSI- 0061	849136	7	27A	125	35.2	461,160
QRSI- 0062	849138	7	29A	125	35.2	461,160
QRSI- 0063	852711	27	3B	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0064	852712	27	11A	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0065	852713	27	11B	100	35.2	396,160
QRSI- 0066	852715	27	13B	100	35.2	396,160

Viva Villa Subdivision
Brgy. Tangle, Mexico, Pampanga

CODE NO	TCT	Blk	Lot	AREA (sqm) Lot	Impv	Minimum Price PhP
SRVV- 0001	446484	3	21	150	31.5	329,000
SRVV- 0002	468229	3	21	150	31.5	329,000
SRVV- 0003	448117	4	1	133	31.5	299,500
SRVV- 0004	430593	4	2	130	31.5	302,000
SRVV- 0005	461581	4	3	120	31.5	290,000
SRVV- 0006	451682	4	4	120	31.5	290,000
SRVV- 0007	451683	4	5	120	31.5	256,000
SRVV- 0008	450077	4	6	120	31.5	256,000
SRVV- 0009	451684	4	7	120	31.5	256,000
SRVV- 0010	451686	4	9	120	31.5	290,000
SRVV- 0011	450079	4	11	120	31.5	262,000
SRVV- 0012	448118	4	12	120	31.5	262,000
SRVV- 0013	448119	4	14	120	31.5	256,000
SRVV- 0014	450081	4	15	120	31.5	256,000
SRVV- 0015	450082	4	16	120	31.5	256,000
SRVV- 0016	461580	4	17	120	31.5	262,000
SRVV- 0017	448120	4	18	120	31.5	262,000
SRVV- 0018	451687	4	19	120	31.5	256,000
SRVV- 0019	450083	4	20	120	31.5	256,000
SRVV- 0020	450085	4	23	120	31.5	256,000
SRVV- 0021	450087	4	25	120	31.5	256,000
SRVV- 0022	451689	4	27	120	31.5	262,000
SRVV- 0023	450088	4	28	120	31.5	256,000
SRVV- 0024	450089	4	29	120	31.5	290,000
SRVV- 0025	448121	4	30	120	31.5	256,000
SRVV- 0026	448276	4	32	120	31.5	262,000
SRVV- 0027	448433	4	33	120	31.5	290,000
SRVV- 0028	448434	4	35	120	31.5	290,000
SRVV- 0029	450090	4	36	120	31.5	262,000
SRVV- 0030	448435	4	37	120	31.5	262,000
SRVV- 0031	450091	4	38	120	31.5	262,000
SRVV- 0032	448122	4	40	120	31.5	262,000
SRVV- 0033	448438	4	45	120	31.5	262,000
SRVV- 0034	430596	4	46	120	31.5	262,000
SRVV- 0035	430598	4	50	120	31.5	262,000
SRVV- 0036	430599	4	52	120	31.5	262,000
SRVV- 0037	430602	4	59	120	31.5	262,000
SRVV- 0038	430594	4	61	139	31.5	314,700
SRVV- 0039	448280	4	62	275	31.5	457,500
SRVV- 0040	430603	4	63	120	31.5	290,000
SRVV- 0041	433095	4	64	120	31.5	256,000
SRVV- 0042	450092	4	66	120	31.5	256,000
SRVV- 0043	448123	4	67	120	31.5	262,000
SRVV- 0044	451693	4	68	120	31.5	256,000
SRVV- 0045	430604	4	69	120	31.5	256,000
SRVV- 0046	451694	4	70	120	31.5	262,000
SRVV- 0047	461564	4	77	110	31.5	243,000
SRVV- 0048	461565	4	78	110	31.5	243,000
SRVV- 0049	430600	4	79	110	31.5	243,000
SRVV- 0050	461566	4	80	110	31.5	249,000
SRVV- 0051	451712	4	81	110	31.5	243,000
SRVV- 0052	451671	4	82	110	31.5	243,000
SRVV- 0053	450094	4	85	110	31.5	243,000
SRVV- 0054	450097	4	86	110	31.5	243,000
SRVV- 0055	450098	4	88	110	31.5	243,000
SRVV- 0056	448124	4	91	110	31.5	277,000
SRVV- 0057	461567	4	92	110	31.5	277,000
SRVV- 0058	448447	4	93	110	31.5	243,000
SRVV- 0059	448448	4	95	110	31.5	243,000
SRVV- 0060	461558	4	97	110	31.5	243,000
SRVV- 0061	451699	5	8	80	31.5	193,000
SRVV- 0062	450099	5	11	80	24.0	192,000
SRVV- 0063	461587	5	12	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0064	450101	5	15	80	24.0	180,000
SRVV- 0065	461589	5	16	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0066	450107	5	17	80	24.0	180,000
SRVV- 0067	461590	5	18	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0068	450103	5	20	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0069	450104	5	21	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0070	451700	5	22	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0071	450096	5	23	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0072	451702	5	24	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0073	450105	5	25	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0074	451703	5	26	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0075	450106	5	27	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0076	450107	5	58	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0077	448451	5	60	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0078	450108	5	62	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0079	448092	5	63	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0080	450109	5	65	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0081	448125	5	66	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0082	448093	5	68	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0083	430608	5	69	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0084	448126	5	71	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0085	461585	5	72	179	24.0	272,400
SRVV- 0086	450110	5	73	128	24.0	211,200
SRVV- 0087	450111	6	4	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0088	450112	6	5	80		96,000
SRVV- 0089	415786	6	6	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0090	450114	6	8	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0091	450115	6	9	80	24.0	192,000
SRVV- 0092	446886	6	10	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0093	450116	6	11	80	24.0	192,000
SRVV- 0094	450117	6	12	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0095	450118	6	13	80	24.0	192,000
SRVV- 0096	451704	6	14	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0097	450119	6	15	80	24.0	192,000
SRVV- 0098	451705	6	16	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0099	451706	6	17	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0100	451708	6	19	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0101	451709	6	20	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0102	461593	6	21	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0103	461594	6	22	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0104	461597	6	30	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0105	450120	6	32	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0106	450127	6	34	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0107	461598	6	35	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0108	451710	6	36	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0109	448127	6	38	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0110	461600	6	39	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0111	468150	6	42	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0112	461603	6	43	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0113	448128	6	44	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0114	448129	6	46	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0115	450123	6	50	80	24.0	163,200
SRVV- 0116	450124	6	52	80	24.0	153,600
SRVV- 0117	461608	6	53	80	28.0	247,000
SRVV- 0118	461609	6	54	80	28.0	247,000
SRVV- 0119	461610	6	55	80	28.0	247,000
SRVV- 0120	451711	6	56	80	28.0	247,000
SRVV- 0121	461611	6	57	80	28.0	247,000
SRVV- 0122	450125	6	61	80	28.0	247,000
SRVV- 0123	450126	6	62	80	28.0	247,000
SRVV- 0124	450127	6	63	80	28.0	247,000
SRVV- 0125	468230	6	64	80	28.0	247,000
SRVV- 0126	450128	6	65	80	28.0	247,000
SRVV- 0127	468231	6	66	80	28.0	247,000
SRVV- 0128	448284	7	4	120	31.0	327,500
SRVV- 0129	461578	7	7	120	31.0	327,500
SRVV- 0130	448083	7	8	120	31.0	327,500
SRVV- 0131	461579	7	9	120	31.0	327,500
SRVV- 0132	448453	7	10	120	31.0	327,500
SRVV- 0133	448454	7	12	120	31.0	327,500
SRVV- 0134	451716	7	19	120	31.0	327,500
SRVV- 0135	451717	7	21	120	31.0	327,500
SRVV- 0136	448085	7	22	120	31.0	327,500
SRVV- 0137	448086	7	24	120	31.0	327,500
SRVV- 0138	451718	7	25	120	31.0	327,500
SRVV- 0139	433097	7	28	120	31.0	327,500
SRVV- 0140	448087	7	29	120	31.0	327,500
SRVV- 0141	433098	7	30	120	31.0	327,500
SRVV- 0142	451719	7	32	120	31.0	327,500
SRVV- 0143	446889	7	34	120	31.0	327,500
SRVV- 0144	451721	7	35	120	31.0	327,500
SRVV- 0145	451673	7	37B	60	28.0	221,000
SRVV- 0146	433106	7	39A	60	28.0	221,000
SRVV- 0147	433107	7	39B	60	28.0	221,000
SRVV- 0148	430638	7	41A	60	28.0	221,000
SRVV- 0149	430639	7	41B	60	28.0	221,000
SRVV- 0150	430640	7	42A	60	28.0	221,000
SRVV- 0151	450133	7	57	120	31.0	327,500
SRVV- 0152	450134	8	1	119	31.0	350,000
SRVV- 0153	415796	8	4	100	31.0	301,500
SRVV- 0154	430615	8	8	100	31.0	301,500
SRVV- 0155	430617	8	12	100	31.0	301,500
SRVV- 0156	430618	8	14	100	31.0	301,500
SRVV- 0157	448286	8	18	100	31.0	301,500
SRVV- 0158	450139	8	19	100	31.0	301,500
SRVV- 0159	451722	8	20	100	31.0	301,500
SRVV- 0160	450140	8	21	100	31.0	301,500
SRVV- 0161	450142	8	23	100	31.0	301,500
SRVV- 0162	448088	8	24	100	31.0	301,500
SRVV- 0163	450143	8	25	100	31.0	301,500
SRVV- 0164	430620	8	26	100	31.0	301,500
SRVV- 0165	450144	8	27	100	31.0	301,500
SRVV- 0166	448133	8	28	100	31.0	301,500
SRVV- 0167	448089	8	29	100	31.0	301,500
SRVV- 0168	468232	8	30	100	31.0	301,500
SRVV- 0169	448091	8	35	100	31.0	301,500
SRVV- 0170	448134	8	37	100	31.0	301,500
SRVV- 0171	433101	8	38	100	31.0	301,500
SRVV- 0172	433102	8	40	100	31.5	258,500
SRVV- 0173	448455	8	41	100	31.5	258,500
SRVV- 0174	430642	8	45A*	50	22.5	143,200
SRVV- 0175	430643	8	45B*	50	22.5	143,200
SRVV- 0176	461562	8	46	100	31.5	258,500
SRVV- 0177	430645	8	47B*	50	22.5	143,200
SRVV- 0178	461568	8	48	100	31.5	258,500
SRVV- 0179	461569	8	49	100	31.5	258,500
SRVV- 0180	433104	8	50A*	50	22.5	143,200
SRVV- 0181	433105	8	50B*	50	22.5	143,200
SRVV- 0182	461571	8	53	100	31.5	258,500
SRVV- 0183	451724	8	55	100	31.5	258,500
SRVV- 0184	433103	8	56	100	31.5	258,500
SRVV- 0185	415798	8	58	100	31.5	258,500
SRVV- 0186	461572	8	59	100	31.5	258,500
SRVV- 0187	430621	8	60	120	31.5	284,500
SRVV- 0188	461573	8	61	100	31.5	258,500
SRVV- 0189	451725	8	65	100	31.5	258,500
SRVV- 0190	451675	8	67	100	31.5	258,500
SRVV- 0191	415802	8	68	100	31.5	258,500
SRVV- 0192	415804	8	70	100	31.5	238,500
SRVV- 0193	415797	8	73	119	31.5	307,000
SRVV- 0194	468237	9	50A	84	23.0	187,400
SRVV- 0195	468238	9	50B	62	23.0	158,800
SRVV- 0196	461574	9	51	118	23.0	221,100
SRVV- 0197	430623	9	52	60	23.0	125,300
SRVV- 0198	415808	9	53	60	23.0	145,700
SRVV- 0199	415809	9	54	60	23.0	145,700
SRVV- 0200	415810	9	55	60	23.0	145,700
SRVV- 0201	415811	9	56	60	23.0	145,700
SRVV- 0202	451726	9	57	60	23.0	156,200
SRVV- 0203	461615	9	58	60	23.0	137,800
SRVV- 0204	451727	9	59	60	23.0	145,700
SRVV- 0205	430624	9	61	60	23.0	149,300
SRVV- 0206	430625	9	62	60	23.0	149,300
SRVV- 0207	430626	9	63	60	23.0	149,300
SRVV- 0208	430628	9	65	60	23.0	149,300
SRVV- 0209	430630	9	67	60	23.0	149,300
SRVV- 0210	415812	9	73	60	23.0	149,300
SRVV- 0211	415813	9	74	60	23.0	156,200
SRVV- 0212	415816	9	77	60	23.0	156,200
SRVV- 0213	461576	9	80	119	23.0	256,700
SRVV- 0214	468183	11	20	110	31.5	275,300
SRVV- 0215	468184	11	22	110	31.5	297,300
SRVV- 0216	468185	11	24	110	31.5	275,300
SRVV- 0217	468186	11	26	110	31.5	275,300
SRVV- 0218	468187	11	28	110	31.5	275,300
SRVV- 0219	468189	11	32	110	31.5	275,300
SRVV- 0220	468190	11	34	110	31.5	275,300
SRVV- 0221	468191	11	36	110	31.5	275,300
SRVV- 0222	468192	11	38	110	31.5	275,300
SRVV- 0223	468193	11	40	110	31.5	275,300
SRVV- 0224	468500	11	48	110	31.5	275,300
SRVV- 0225	468195	11	50	110	31.5	275,300
SRVV- 0226	468196	11	52	111	31.5	276,600
SRVV- 0227	468204	11	60	126	31.5	296,100
SRVV- 0228	468197	11	62	120	31.5	288,300
SRVV- 0229	468198	11	64	120	31.5	288,300
SRVV- 0230	468199	11	66	120	31.5	257,175
SRVV- 0231	468200	11	68	120	31.5	257,175
SRVV- 0232	468202	11	74	120	31.5	247,725
SRVV- 0233	468203	11	76	120	31.5	247,725
SRVV- 0234	415818	14	125	50	22.5	98,700
SRVV- 0235	415821	14	126	50	22.5	98,700
SRVV- 0236	415822	14	127	116	22.5	177,900
SRVV- 0237	415823	14	128	50	22.5	86,100
SRVV- 0238	415824	14	129	50	22.5	86,100
SRVV- 0239	415825	14	130	50	22.5	88,800
SRVV- 0240	415826	14	131	50	22.5	98,700
SRVV- 0241	415827	14	132	50	22.5	98,700
SRVV- 0242	415828	14	133	95	22.5	152,700
SRVV- 0243	415829	14	134	100	22.5	158,700
SRVV- 0244	415830	14	135	50	22.5	98,700
SRVV- 0245	415831	14	136	50	22.5	98,700
SRVV- 0246	415833	14	138	50	22.5	98,700
SRVV- 0247	415836	14	141	50	22.5	98,700
SRVV- 0248	415839	14	144	50	22.5	98,700
SRVV- 0249	468149	15	25	80	28.5	157,275
SRVV- 0250	468148	15	27	80	28.5	157,275
SRVV- 0251	468147	15	29	80	28.5	157,275
SRVV- 0252	468177	15	31	80	28.5	157,275
SRVV- 0253	468176	15	33	80	28.5	157,275
SRVV- 0254	468175	15	35	80	28.5	157,275
SRVV- 0255	468174	15	37	80	28.5	157,275
SRVV- 0256	468173	15	39	80	28.5	157,275
SRVV- 0257	468172	15	41	80	28.5	157,275
SRVV- 0258	468171	15	43	80	28.5	157,275
SRVV- 0259	468168	15	53	80	28.5	157,275
SRVV- 0260	468167	15	55	80	28.5	157,275
SRVV- 0261	468165	15	69	80	28.5	157,275
SRVV- 0262	468164	15	71	80	28.5	157,275
SRVV- 0263	468163	15	73	80	28.5	157,275
SRVV- 0264	468159	15	81	80	28.5	157,275
SRVV- 0265	468175	15	85	80	28.5	157,275
SRVV- 0266	468155	15	89	80	28.5	157,275
SRVV- 0267	468207	23	83	60	23.0	170,500
SRVV- 0268	468208	23	84	60	23.0	170,500
SRVV- 0269	468209	23	85	60	23.0	170,500
SRVV- 0270	468213	23	89	60	23.0	170,500
SRVV- 0271	468214	23	90	60	23.0	170,500
SRVV- 0272	468216	23	92	60	23.0	170,500
SRVV- 0273	468217	23	93	60	23.0	170,500
SRVV- 0274	468218	23	94	60	23.0	170,500
SRVV- 0275	468219	23	95	60	23.0	170,500
SRVV- 0276	468220	23	96	60	23.0	170,500
SRVV- 0277	468221	23	97	60	23.0	170,500
SRVV- 0278	468223	23	99

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
Ali 2	LIBERATED
Ali 3	DARK BLUE
Ali 4	MATRIX REVOLUTION
Ali 5	MATRIX REVOLUTION
Ali 6	MAPANUKSO
Ali 7	WRONG TURN

ARANETA COLISEUM

NOV 16	PBA GAMES
NOV 17	BAKBAKAN 8-STAG DERBY
NOV 19	BAKBAKAN 8-STAG DERBY
NOV 20	MANDY MOORE CONCERT
NOV 21	PBA GAMES

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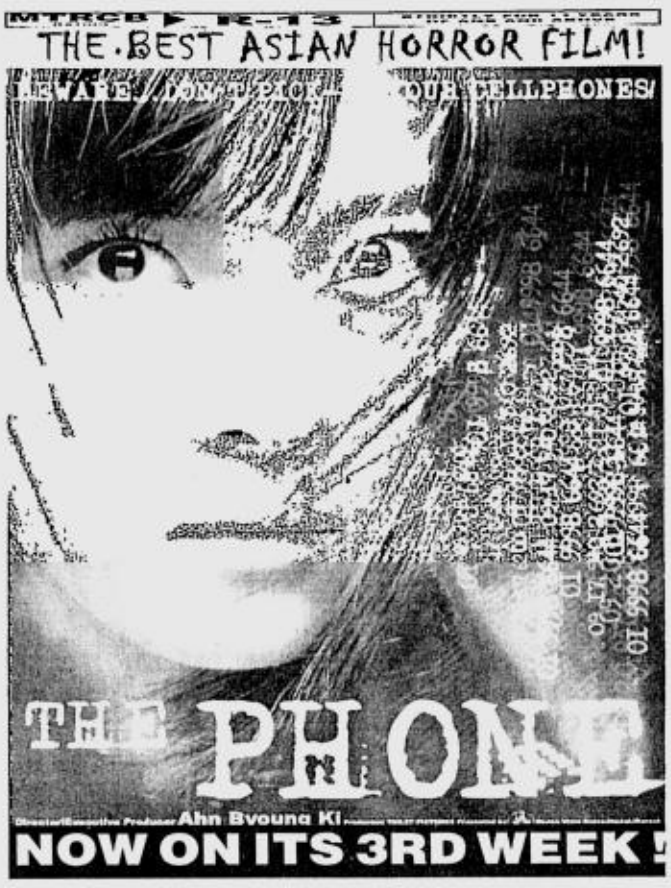

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AYALA CINEMAS
PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 LIBERATED	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	Art Film 1 MONSOON WEDDING 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30	THX DARK BLUE 1:20 3:50 6:20 8:50, 11:20	THX 1 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 DARK BLUE	2 DARK BLUE		THX MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 1:25, 4:10, 6:55, 9:40	2 DARK BLUE
3 THE WISHER	THX MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 12:45, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00	2 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 12:15, 3:00, 5:45, 8:30	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 3:15, 6:00, 8:45, 11:30	3 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	4 DRUMLINE		UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN 1:50, 4:15, 6:40, 9:05, 11:30	4 HEAD OF STATE
	5 UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN	REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 9PM	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 2:20, 5:05, 7:50, 10:35	5 WRONG TURN
	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS			
	7 WRONG TURN			

For screening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
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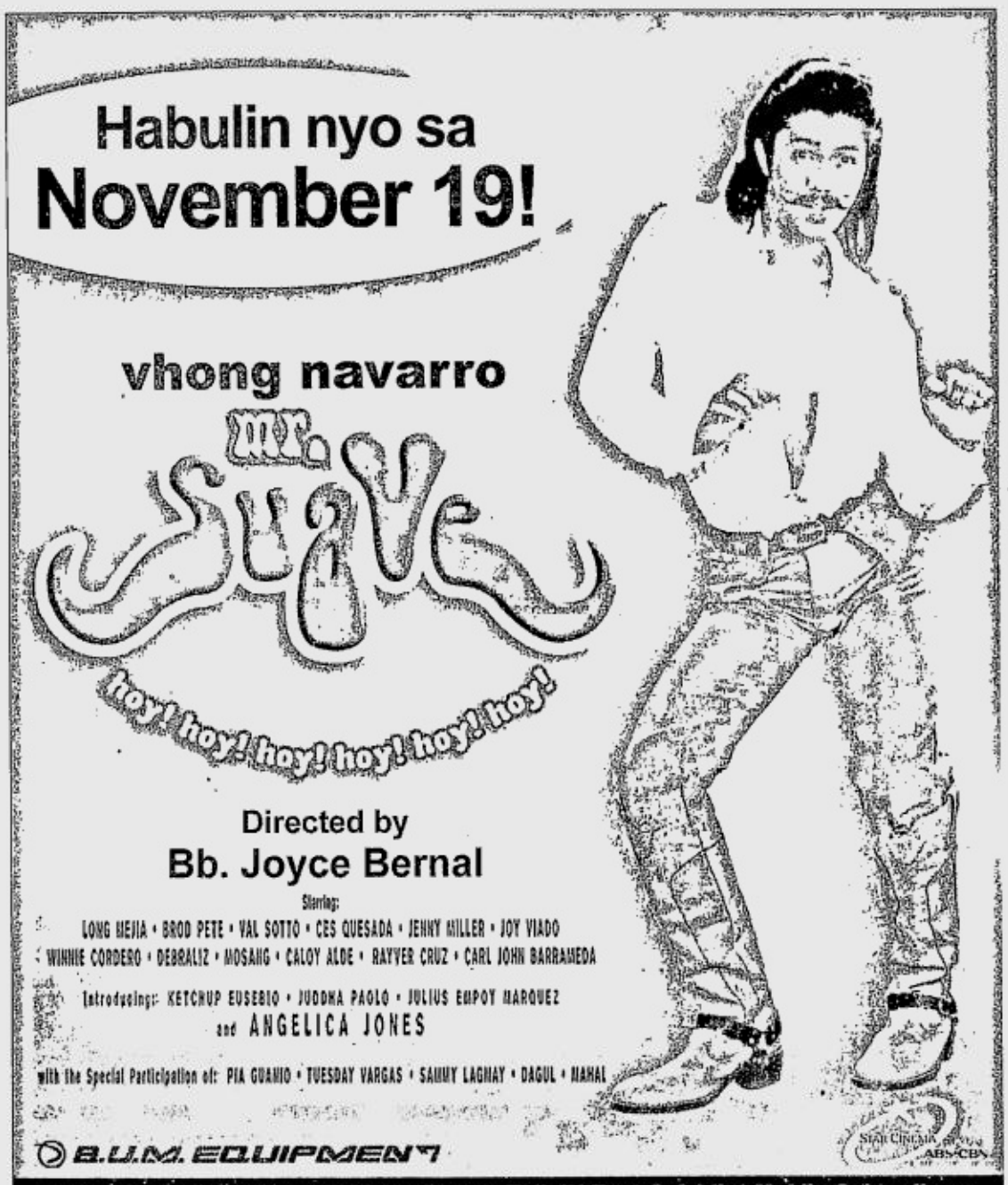
Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.



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MOVIE GUIDE
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FESTIVAL CINEMA
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1	TITANIC (ANIMATION)
2	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5	DARK BLUE
6	WRONG TURN
7	WISHER
8	MY FIRST ROMANCE
9	MAPANUKSO
10	LIBERATED

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA 0250
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	MAPANUKSO
2	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3	LIBERATED

starmall
www.clickthecity.com.ph Movies
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	WRONG TURN
2	TEMPTING HEART
3	MAPANUKSO
4	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5	LIBERATED

METROPOLIS
www.clickthecity.com.ph star
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	LIBERATED
2	MAPANUKSO
3	TEMPTING HEART
4	WRONG TURN
5	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
6	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	LIBERATED
2	THE SPY

PREMIERE CINEMA
(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2503
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
tel 930.9515

1	
2	
3	

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) TEL. 776-74-21

1	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2	LIBERATED
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMAS

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	LIBERATED
6	MAPANUKSO
7	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
8	DARK BLUE
9	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364-3781

1	LIBERATED
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3	MAPANUKSO
4	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5	DARK BLUE
6	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
7	WRONG TURN
8	TEMPTING HEART
9	THE RUNDOWN

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1	LIBERATED
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4	IDENTITY
5	MAPANUKSO

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	WRONG TURN
2	LIBERATED
3	IDENTITY
4	MAPANUKSO
5	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	RESERVE

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	MAPANUKSO
Lords	MAPANUKSO
Jennet	RESERVE

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2	MAPANUKSO
3	LIBERATED
4	WRONG TURN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2	MAPANUKSO
3	TEPTING HEART
4	WRONG TURN
5	LIBERATED

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2	MAPANUKSO

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242/8400

1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2	LIBERATED
3 DOLBY DIGITAL	DARK BLUE
4	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
6	MAPANUKSO
7	WRONG TURN

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242/8400

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0926

1	LIBERATED
2	UNDERWORLD
3	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2	UNDERWORLD
3	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4	IDENTITY

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3	UNDERWORLD
4	IDENTITY

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	THE PHONE
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3	THE RUNDOWN
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2	MATCHSTICK MEN
3	IDENTITY
4	MATRIX REVOLUTION

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2	IDENTITY
3	MY FIRST ROMANCE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	PRIVATE LESSON - 2
2	LIBERATED
3	MAPANUKSO
4	LIGAYA PANTASYA NG BAYAN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1	UNDERWORLD
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4	LIBERATED
5	MAPUPULANG LABI

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2	MAPUPULANG LABI
3	RESERVE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2	IDENTITY
3	MY FIRST ROMANCE

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	LIBERATED
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	THE RUNDOWN
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	UNDERWORLD
2	UP TOWN GIRL
3	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4	IDENTITY

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1	IDENTITY
2	RESERVE
3	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4	UP TOWN GIRL

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121

1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2	UP TOWN GIRL
3 DOLBY	IDENTITY
4	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	MAPANUKSO
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUDONG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	MAPANUKSO
B	
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-28-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-2	LIBERATED!
CINEMA-3	INNER SENSES
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-6	SIYAY NAGDADALAGA
CINEMA-7	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-8	THE PHONE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	DARK BLUE
CINEMA-12	WRONG TURN
CINEMA-14	MAPANUKSO
CINEMA-15	MY FIRST ROMANCE

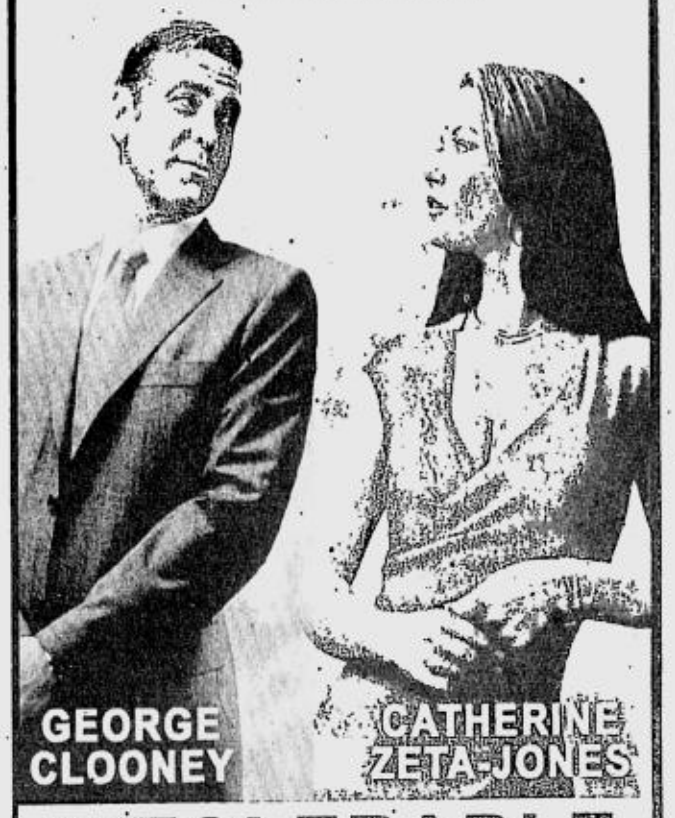
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-2	LIBERATED
CINEMA-4	FREAKY FRIDAY

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

NEXT ATTRACTION MAGIC 89.9

In the BATTLE of the SEXES, who will be the FIRST to BLINK and FALL in LOVE?



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CINEMA 1 — MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00 PG13

CINEMA 2 — MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 12:00, 2:45, 5:30, 8:15 PG13

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is the latest, colorful addition to the Saturday Special section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

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A CARLO J. CAPARAS Film

CESAR MONTANO as CHAVIT

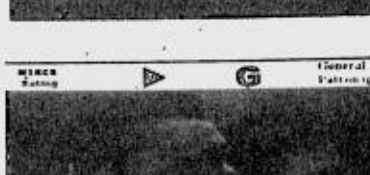
SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION
Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
GLOBE TELECOM

"MY LIFE HAS BEEN A LONG AND DIFFICULT ROAD, BUT I WAS NEVER KNOWN TO TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT... THE FIGHT IS NOT YET OVER!" -Chavit

OPENS NOV. 19 EXCLUSIVELY AT GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS

Inspired By A True Story



RADIO

Distributed by

CUBA GOODING JR. ED HARRIS
His Courage Made Them Champions

Based on a Sports Illustrated article, Radio tells the true story of the unusual friendship between Harold Jones (Ed Harris), a white football coach at a South Carolina high school, and a mentally challenged African-American man nicknamed Radio (Cuba Gooding Jr.). The film covers the duo's nearly 40-year relationship, which continues to this day, and how Coach Jones' mentorship inspired his teams and eventually the entire town.

"...a sweet expression of the better side of human nature..."
–Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

"Oscar-quality performances are loud and clear in Radio."
–William Arnold, SEATTLE POST INTELLIGENCER

MTRCB Rating: General Patronage (GP)

ALL AGES ADMITTED

"Brimming with energy and spirit."
-- Ann Hornaday, WASHINGTON POST

"A superlative movie -- funny, sexy, and rousing."
-- Owen Gleiberman, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

DRUMLINE
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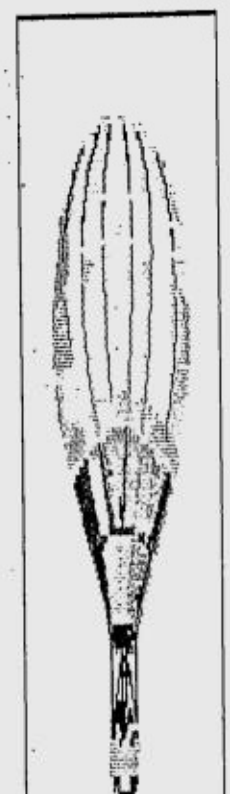

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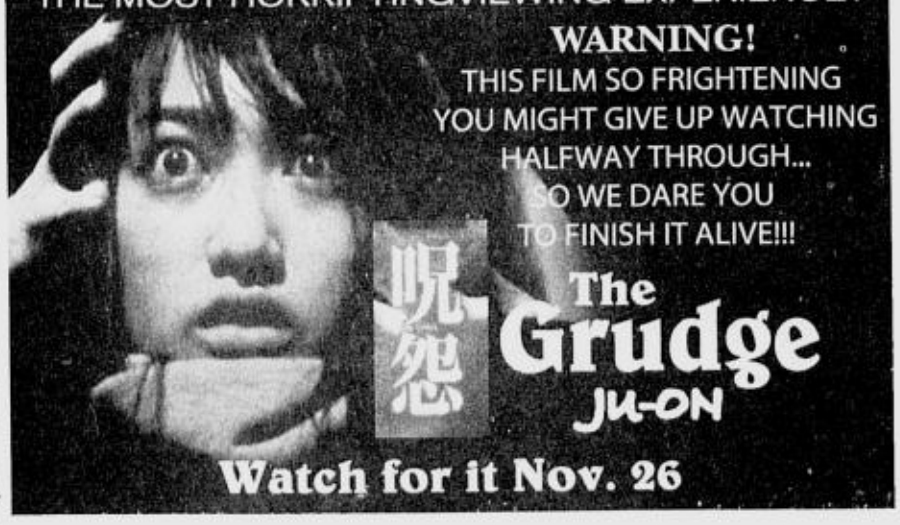
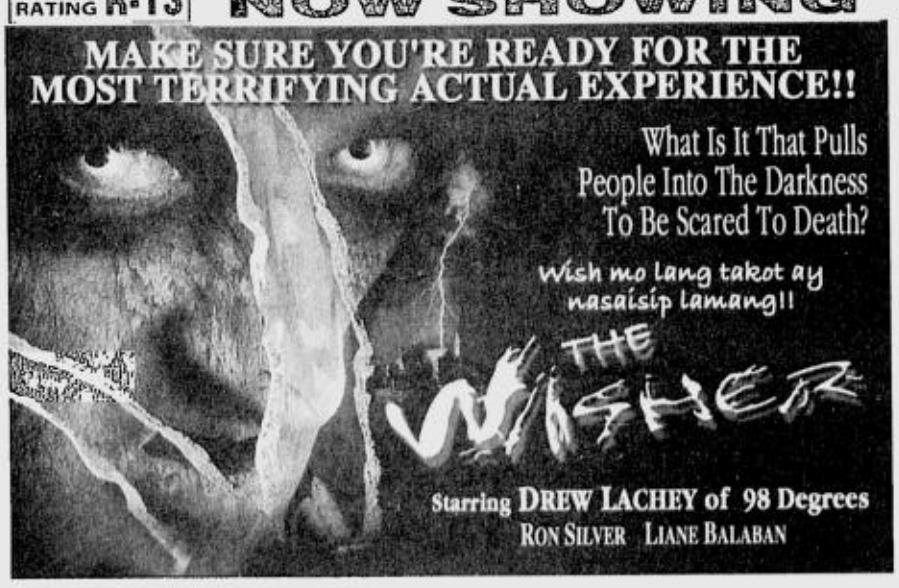


MTRCB RATING R-13 | NOW SHOWING
MAKE SURE YOU'RE READY FOR THE MOST TERRIFYING ACTUAL EXPERIENCE!!



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TIMEZONE AUSTRALIA

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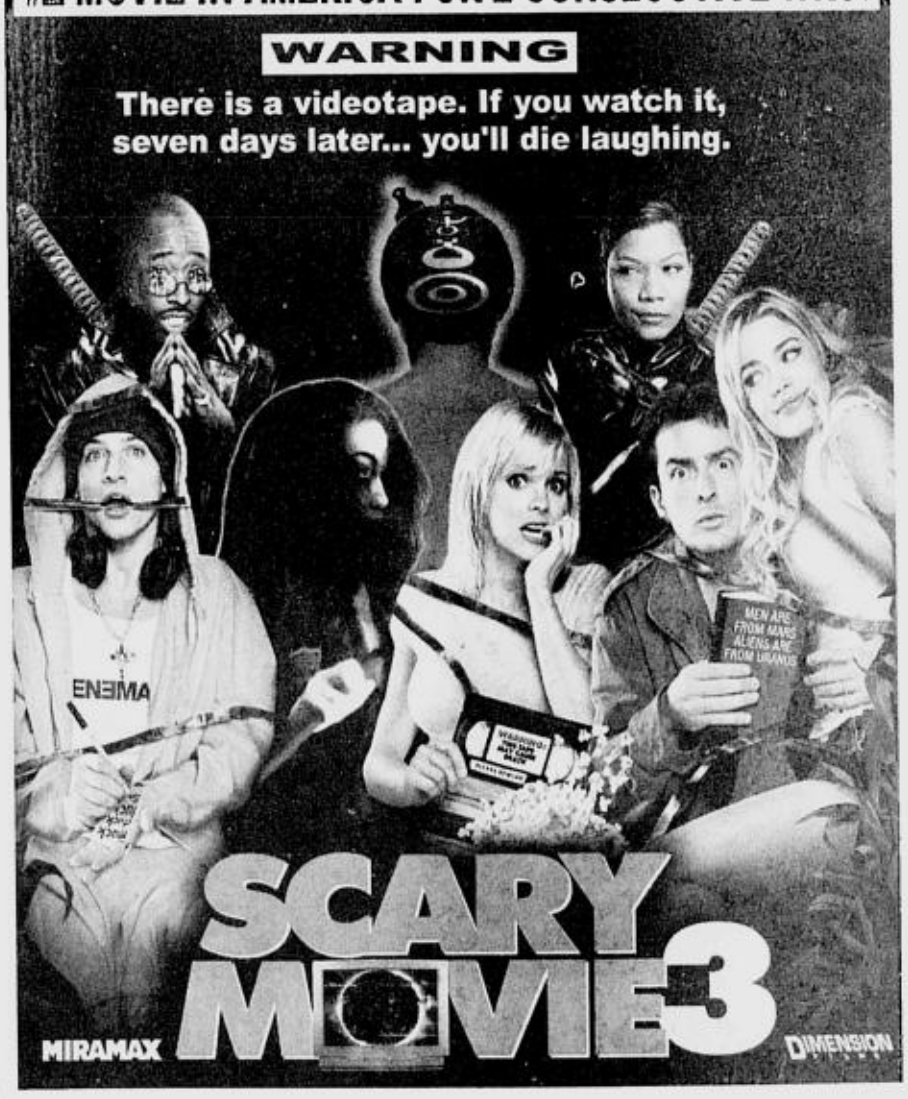
Alabang Town Center

November 22-23:
Greenbelt 3

November 29-30:
Glorietta 4

OPENS NOVEMBER 19 MAGIC 89.9
#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE WKS.



Sunday BIZ

Franchiser who does not have her own shop

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

TRADITIONALLY, an entrepreneur sets up a venture and if successful, he goes into franchising.

In the case of **etc.**, its owner, Rowena Cuyco Galang, got franchisees even before she set up her own shop. In fact, she does not own a single one of the six stores of **etc.**

PINOY ENTREPRENEUR

What happened was she talked to her friends about setting up a shop selling "kuchi-kuchi" (knick-knacks) stuff. They were interested and told her to pursue it and to give them franchisees to it.

The result is a personal style line shop owned by Etc., Carts Inc. According to a company profile, the line was conceived "to cater to the rising number of inquiries regarding an affordable accessory line for the younger market."

Galang says **etc.** goods are usually bought on impulse. "It's impulse purchase. You do not think about it."

To choose her goods, Galang says she pictures her target market which is basically the young. "I picture a teenager and what she wants. Things she uses everyday. My target market is actually ageless—someone on the go who wants basic stuff that she can just accessorize."

The bulk or 60 percent of her merchandise consists of basic apparel for men and women; hair and fashion accessories, 25 percent and basic footwear for men and women, 15 percent.

The goods are from China, Bangkok, Korea and other Asian countries. Galang travels four to six times a year to get her merchandise.

The strategy of **etc.** is its pricing. Goods are priced to encourage multiple sales. "Priced very reasonable to invite customers not to leave the cart without any purchase. Majority of the prices range from P15 to P150.

ROWENA Cuyco Galang

Immersion in entrepreneurship

Galang, has been immersed in entrepreneurship at an early age. Her parents were into the garments export business in the 80s, selling clothes to Cacharel, JC Penny, Bang Bang.

They used to own a department store called Mr. Chin has Everythin' in the 70s.

She had a feel of merchandising as early as nine.

"I would sit in the armchair of my dad and he would show me clothes, shirts and jeans and accessories and ask me which one was good," she recalls.

"When I traveled with my mom, she would give me pocket money and I would buy one item for me and buy several more to sell to my classmates," she says.

Her mother also opened a shop in Hong Kong exposing her to the import business. She also went into the children's clothes business.

"I grew up with it—business. Although I wanted to be a doctor," Galang says. But she eventually took up business and marketing.

First venture

Her first major business involvement was with Ritratto which her mother set up in 1989. It started as a formal wear shop that was high-end. Today, with four shops, Ritratto has casualized their clothes in response to the times. It took her a while to accept that the market had shifted from formal wear in the early 90s to today's more casual garb today.

To further hone her skills in design she took a brief course at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. So far her merchandising has been successful as she has been carrying stuff in **etc.** that have been bestseller for years before becoming in vogue today.

She mentions the hooded jackets which she started selling in 1999. Today the style is in demand.

4 basic colors

However Galang's technique is that at any one time, she only carries four basic colors—black, red, white and grey. However every summer and Christmas, she adds one color to her ware.

"I don't want to clutter the cart. The look should be classy."

Her brother, John Cuyco, an architect based in the US, helps in giving the carts the look. Today the retail carts are all finished in white with splashes of red.

Galang says in a way she feels she is helping people who have no business experience, put up their own stores. "It enables me to give back what I learned," she says.

And though she admits the franchisees actually earn more than she, the set-up enables her to focus on backroom operations and marketing.

Her partners or franchisees are able to oversee the day to day operations of their carts.

Galang recently signed up Yan Yan Laurel, the youngest sister of actor Franco Laurel as signature model.

Move shops

A franchise to an **etc.** cart costs P200,000. This includes the cart and two months worth of inventory. Also all the paraphernelia and uniform of the staff.

Ideally, there should be two staff manning the cart. Galang says a franchisee can have his ROI in six months to one year. The firm gets two percent royalty from gross sales.

She says she and her people are there to assist new franchisees until they are able to gain the confidence to run the cart themselves.

Her cart business recently opened its first free standing store at the second level of the newly-opened east wing of Robinson's Galleria.

Galang says she hopes to open more shops. To date she franchises at Shangri-la Plaza Mall, Rockwell, Alabang Town Center, Bacolod and Star mall. She is eyeing outlets in Libis and Makati.

Peak months are these holidays and during summer when school is out since a lot of her customers are students.

Galang says she plans to set up her own **etc.** outlet. What has happened in the past is that her friends or their relatives would ask her for the spots she has identified to set up her own.

But she does not mind since she feels she is able to help.

Galang's husband is also an entrepreneur, being a part owner of the Chicago Road House restaurant at the Eastwood City in Libis.

(Interested franchisees, can call 899-1811; 895-2209; 0920-9038982 or e-mail at m2g@info.com.ph)

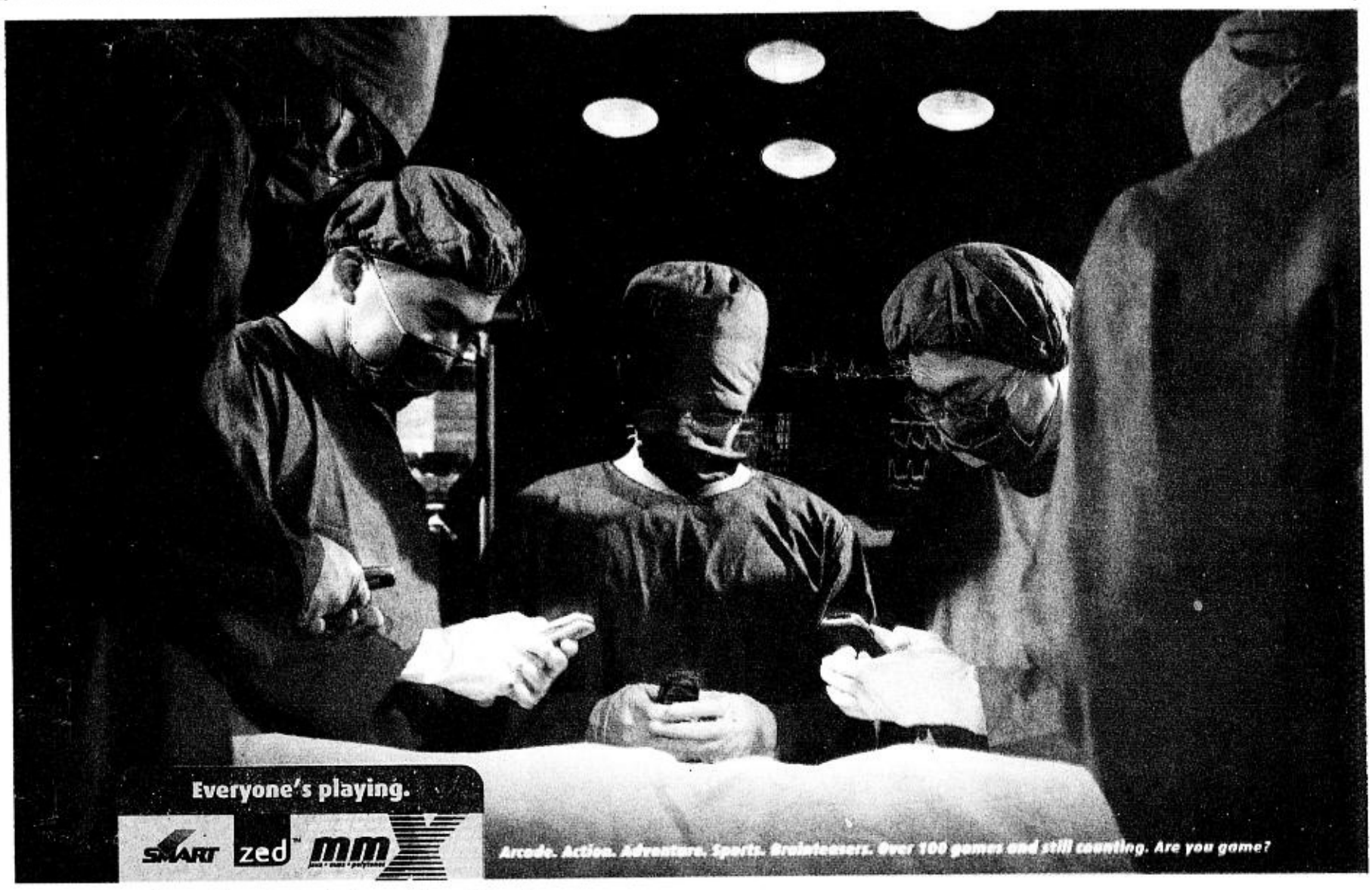
E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

DID YOU KNOW...

THE usually wise-spender that is **Marvin Agustin** entrusted to a "friend" half a million pesos, as the actor's investment in the selling of the new model of Nokia 6600 cell phones. The enterprising friend was to use the money to buy several units of the new cell phone model abroad. When the friend returned to Manila, Marvin's investment had been spent but there were no new cell phones, according to people close to the actor. The hard-working young actor demanded the return of his hard-earned bucks. So far, the friend reportedly has given back only half of the original amount.



Reycard Duet together again /C6

MARIAH IN MANILA American pop singer Mariah Carey, 32, photographed by AFP while performing in Paris last Nov. 4 in a show called "Around the World," has come halfway around the globe to Manila to perform at the Fort Open Field tonight. Thousands are expected to watch and listen to the singer who suffered a public "meltdown" last year but who, like her hit song says, has made it through the rain.

GMA 7 VS ABS-CBN

Case dismissed

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE QUEZON City regional trial court has dismissed the case that GMA Network Inc. filed against rival network ABS-CBN over the latter's alleged rechanneling of the GMA station on cable systems owned by the former.

GMA 7 had complained over the alleged distortion and degradation of its signal transmission on SkyCable Central CATV, Home Cable Inc. and Pinoy Cable Inc., all subsidiaries of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.

Acting presiding Judge Hilario Laqui of Quezon City RTC branch 97 ruled in favor of ABS-CBN, saying the case filed "does not establish that the network had a hand in the rechanelling of GMA 7's cable transmission."

The decision was handed down last Oct. 30.

It said the issue needed to be threshed out since it was highly technical and would require a specialized body like the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) to determine if the rights of GMA 7 had been violated.

The court also ruled that since GMA 7 filed a similar case before the NTC last May, the NTC has primary jurisdiction over the matter.

GMA 7 had complained about the alleged "monopoly and unfair competition due to distortion of broadcast signals." Its letter was addressed to NTC Commissioner Armi Jane Borje and deputy commissioners Kathleen Heceta and Jorge Sarmiento.

GMA Network officials and engineers said that based on their monitoring of the cable provider's Channel 12, which was recently changed to Channel 14, GMA 7's signal appeared to have been altered and degraded.

ABS-CBN, which used to air on Channel 6 on cable, is now on Channel 8.

The changing of channels was done reportedly in accordance with feng shui and Chinese numerology.

The NTC has yet to determine whether ABS-CBN is guilty of distorting the signal transmission of GMA 7's Channel 14 over the SkyCable, Home and Pinoy Cable.

"Thus, before NTC's pronouncement, there is no cause of action to speak of," said the court.

In GMA 7's complaint to the NTC, the network claimed that its audio signals had been "tampered" because some of its video images appeared with electronic streaks and blurred colors.

GMA 7 said its monitoring also indicated that the distortions were prevalent in the time slots where its programs had high ratings.

To back up its complaint, GMA presented reports from viewers regarding video and audio distortions of GMA 7's signal transmission in the ABS cable systems.

GMA 7 officer in charge for corporate communications Butch Raquel told INQUIRER Entertainment that the network has not received a copy of the decision and therefore could not comment yet.

Maloli Manalastas, ABS-CBN vice president for government, corporate affairs and public relations, said the network "commends the RTC ruling for continuously upholding justice and open competition in the industry."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

'Ten Little Indians' meets 'Psycho'

EX-COP. Cusack plays a Sartre-toting limo driver feeling an "experience of negation."

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

OF THE many horror movies I've seen, I don't think I've ever come across something like "Identity."

"Identity" begins by observing the time-honored formula of a typical slasher movie. It gets a group of diverse characters and dooms them, trapping them in a seemingly hopeless situation where they're picked off one by one. All the essential elements are present, borrowed even from a couple of classics—Agatha Christie's "Ten Little Indians" and Alfred Hitchcock's "Psycho"—and rightly acknowledged as so.

Stormy night

It's a dark and stormy night and 10 people by some interconnected twist of fate—stylishly shown in the movie through quick-cutting flashbacks—have to take refuge in a remote and rundown motel that looks eerily enough like the one owned by a certain Mr. Bates. All the exit roads are washed out, the phone lines are dead, and even the radios and cell phones aren't working.

We've seen one too many movies with this kind of setup. We know these people are going to get it for sure, and that no matter which way they go, they're screwed. Death here is a no-win scenario.

A lot more

For any young man looking for an excuse to scare the bejesus out of his date so that she would leap into his arms, "Identity" is a dream. There are plenty of shocks to make sure of this. But that young man better pay attention to the story and be ready for the questions from his date later on. Because there's a lot more to this movie than getting its characters alone so that they could helplessly meet their brutal fates. A lot more.

Right away, I had my suspicions. This can't just be your thinly disguised B-movie intended for its usually exclusive teen target audience. With John Cusack, Ray Liotta and Rebecca DeMornay in the cast and a director, James Mangold, who's known for character-centered movies ("Copland" and "Girl Interrupted"), it just can't be.

Parallel story

"Identity" drops some breadcrumbs along the way, some clues telling you that masquerading behind the basic genre piece is a fascinating, if not screwy, premise. There's a hint of the paranormal, for instance, as the motel is situated in an old Indian burial ground that has its share of mysteries, although this turns out to be one of the movie's many red herrings.

Then there's the parallel story of a psychiatrist (Alfred Molina of "Frida" and "Chocolat") trying desperately to get a stay of execution for his client, a mass murderer who may or may not be insane. We know that the fate of his client is somehow related to the fates of the people trapped in the motel, but I don't know if anyone in the screening I attended was able to guess correctly how (certainly not I).

A friend called me up just to ask if he understood the movie right, and this was two days after he saw it. "Why are you still thinking about it?" I asked. He said he just couldn't stop turning the puzzle in his head to see if indeed each bit of action and dialogue fits neatly into the plot and eventually supports the movie's conclusion. I realized then that maybe he isn't the only one so obsessed.

Plot twists

"Identity" does have the ability to grip audiences from beginning to end, and even thereafter, as its effects cannot easily be shaken off. It's not just because the movie connects directly with our fears, our fear of getting our heads lopped off by a madman, for instance, or our fear of entrapment, although I suppose that's a big factor.

But the more telling one lies in its two significant plot twists that involve the identities of the characters and their fates. While it may be possible for an intelligent viewer to surmise one or the other, or even both, it's highly unlikely. Weirdly enough, the way the movie toys with one's imagination is both unnerving and enjoyable.

Whirl of confusion

REVIEW

And when it comes to weaving the two twists and offering a logical conclusion, Mangold and screenwriter Michael Cooney do not disappoint. If we were to backtrack amid the whirl of confusion and seemingly irrelevant detail, we'd see that it all makes sense in a way that gives us a major case of the heebie-jeebies.

"Identity" boasts of actors that have a lively and effective chemistry between them. Amanda Peet, who plays a prostitute yearning to turn a new leaf, and Cusack, who plays an ex-cop turned limo driver, are intensely sympathetic. Liotta is in his usually ominous element and John Hawkes ("The Perfect Storm") is suitably jumpy as the motel manager with more than a skeleton in his closet.

The rest of the actors somehow make their mark before getting offed.

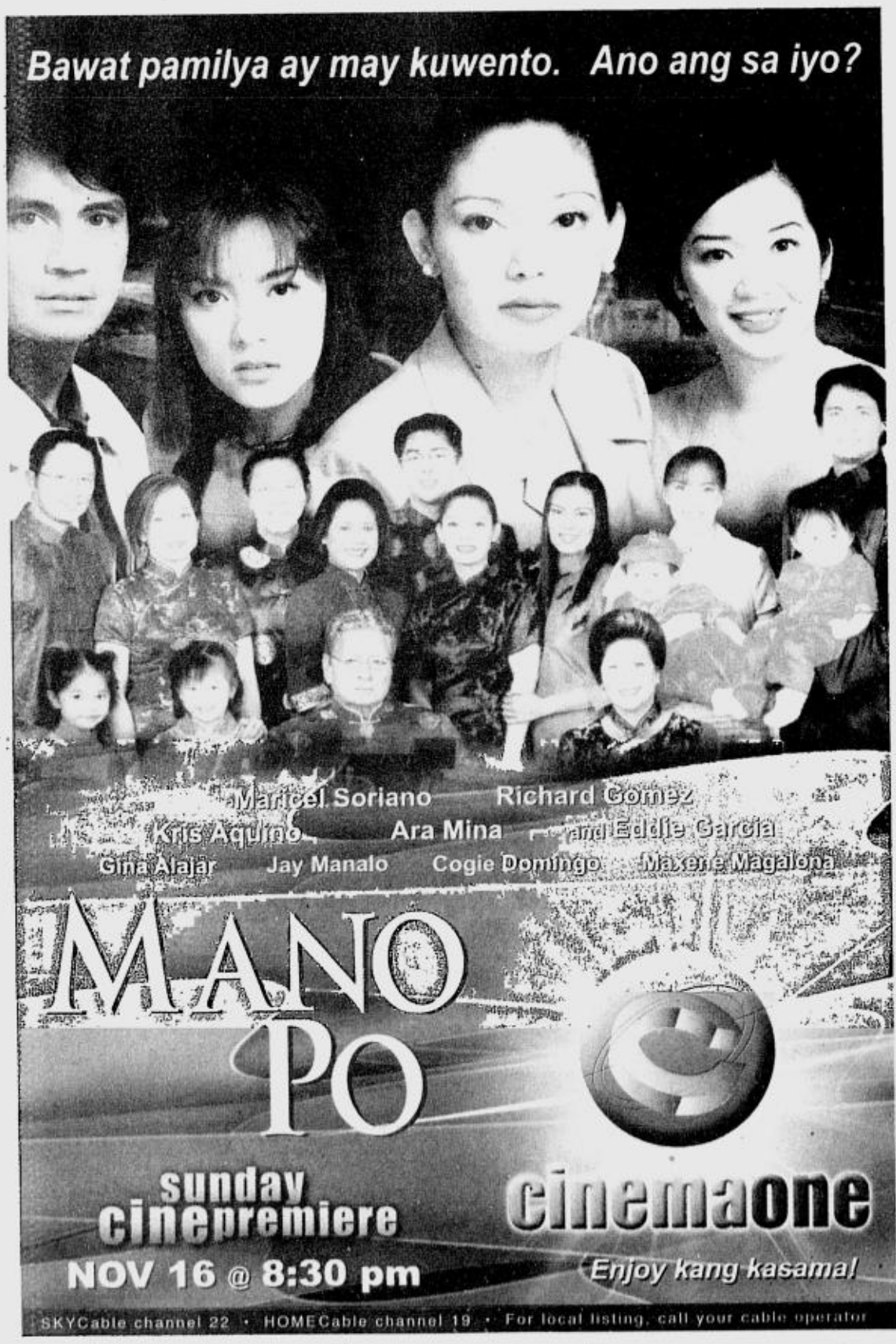
Tension, intelligence

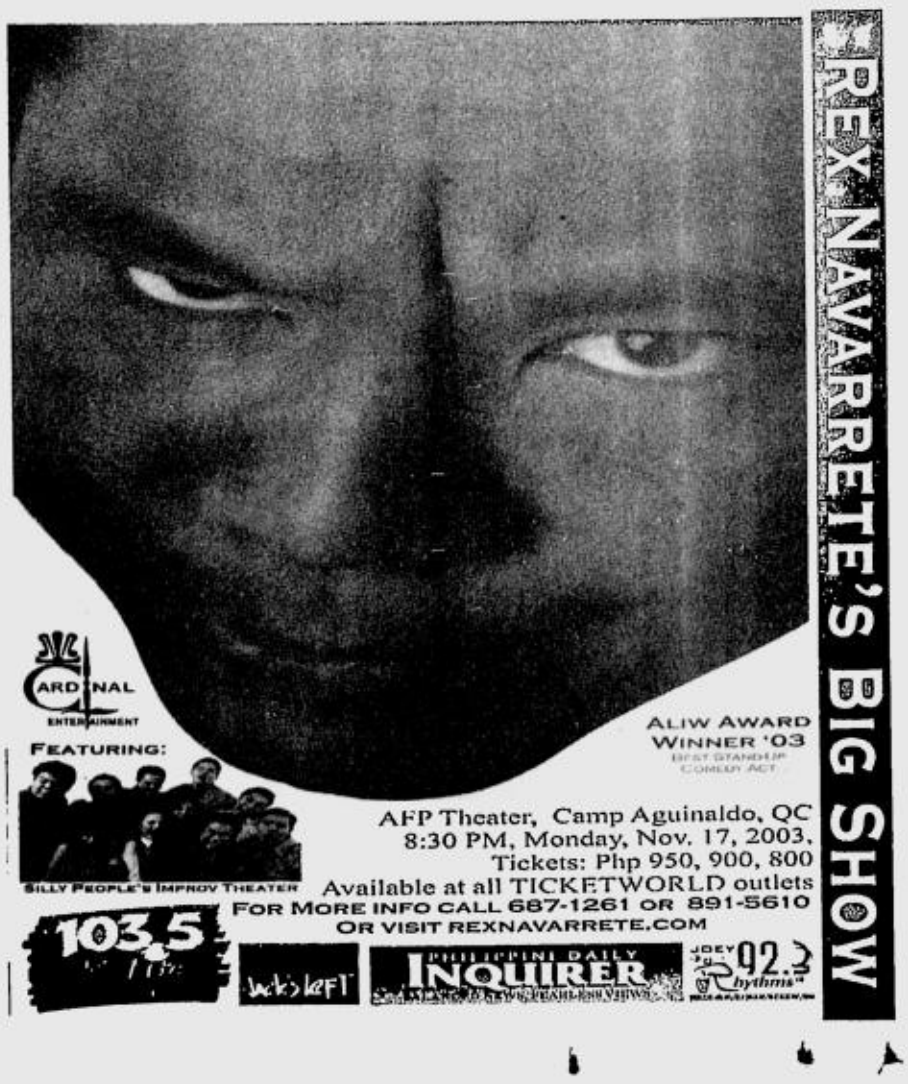
There are a number of wonderful little touches in "Identity" that add to the sense of giddy unpredictability suffusing the movie: the intense close-ups of the actors, the bold, stylized camera angles, the insinuating musical score, the rain-drenched dark setting.

My favorite, though, is the small talk that happens between the characters during the few lulls in the scare fest. In these short exchanges one can appreciate the irony: a movie that crackles with so much tension also crackling with intelligence.

In one scene, Peet's prostitute asks Ed why he left the police force. Ed tells the story of this woman who was about to jump from a building. He was the first on the scene and the woman asked him for a reason to live. He knew all the standard answers to give in such a situation, but the woman, noticing the hesitation on his face, took the plunge to her death. It isn't talked about in the movie but that explains why Ed has a tattered copy of Jean Paul Sartre's "Being and Nothingness" in his car. He probably is feeling the anguish of that "experience of negation" that Sartre discusses in his magnum opus.

Or maybe the book is another clue, telling us the people in the movie are not really who they are.





Vhong Navarro plays two title roles

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR SOMETIME now, we've been speculating in this space that **Vhong Navarro** could be the next big thing to hit the local film scene this year. He could even be "the next **Dolphy**."

It's good to see that two major studios, Star Cinema and Regal, appear to agree: They've tapped Vhong to play the title roles in their upcoming productions, "Mr. Suave" and "Gagamboy," respectively.

Star Cinema obviously hopes and prays that "Mr. Suave" will turn out to be the big sleeper hit that "Tanging Ina" with **Ai Ai delas Alas** was. After all, the two movies similarly topbill new and untested film stars in Ai Ai (then) and Vhong (now).

That means a more modest budget for both movies, which could assure bigger profits. This isn't a sure-fire formula, of course, as the less than spectacular showing of the studio's follow-up Ai Ai starrer, "Pinay Pie," showed.

But Star Cinema's promotional tie-up with its sister TV company, ABS-CBN, is a potent tool that usually brings in the hits, as proven by the movie company's generally good showing this year, so it could also work its wonders on "Mr. Suave."

Vhong's first starrer also has an ace up its sleeve in its director, **Joyce Bernal**, who is popular for her with-it movies. She and Vhong could click in the spoof and goofy satire department, so "Mr. Suave" could become that rare cinematic creature on the local entertainment scene, a popular *and* critical hit.

We hear that Regal is miffed that its own Vhong starrer, "Gagamboy," has been beaten to the movie screens by "Mr. Suave," but that may not be the liability that the studio thinks it is.

Look at it this way: If "Mr. Suave" is a hit, viewers will want to see more of Vhong, so "Gagamboy" could benefit from the success (knock on wood) of Vhong's first starrer.

Also, "Gagamboy" offers extra-attractive elements like special effects and such, and it's going to be shown in the yearend Metro filmfest, which traditionally draws bigger crowds than other playdates. So, it's quite possible that "Gagamboy" could end up doing even better business than "Mr. Suave."

Everything is speculative at this early stage, of course, but what is clear is Vhong's outstanding talent and viewer appeal, the reasons why we've been boosting him all these months.

We've always liked his screen performances, even when they were cameo or supporting bits. His combination of "innocent" face, sassy wisecracks and expressive dancer's body made him stand out even when his roles were relatively insignificant.

We decided to write more lengthily about Vhong when we saw him play a gay radio announcer on TV. He impressed us because he went beyond the gay aspect of the role, to limn a perceptive portrait of a complicated, multi-dimensional character.

Of course, both Mr. Suave and Gagamboy may not require such complexity. The specific goals here are comedy-satire and comedy-fantasy-adventure, respectively, and hitmaking popularity for the two films' lead actor. We trust that Vhong will be successful in attaining those objectives as well.

'Anatomy of a Shark Bite'

AT 9 p.m. on Nov. 16, the Discovery Channel screens "Anatomy of a Shark Bite," the harrowing account of shark behavioral scientist **Erich Ritter**'s traumatic experience in 2002. He was filming in the Bahamas with the Discovery Channel when a bull shark bit his calf!

The documentary uses this and other shark-attack footage, as well as computer-generated imaging, to show how and why different breeds of sharks bite. Replays on Nov. 17 at 5 a.m., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

"Chasing Time" has returned to the National Geographic Channel, traveling to new cities as contestants pit their wits against cryptic clues, language difficulties, climate extremes and the ever-clicking clock. The show is telecast every Sunday at 10 p.m.

The Nov. 16 episode, "Chasing Time: Shanghai," has contestants tracking clues that lead them to the fan dancers in Yu Yuan Gardens, the massive obelisks of the Monument to the People's Heroes, a restaurant serving phoenix claws, the Shanghai Circus City, a six-legged singing pet, the early morning fanatics in Lu Xun Park, the old Evening Bell at Longhua Temple, and the food stalls along the golden mile of Nanjing Lu.

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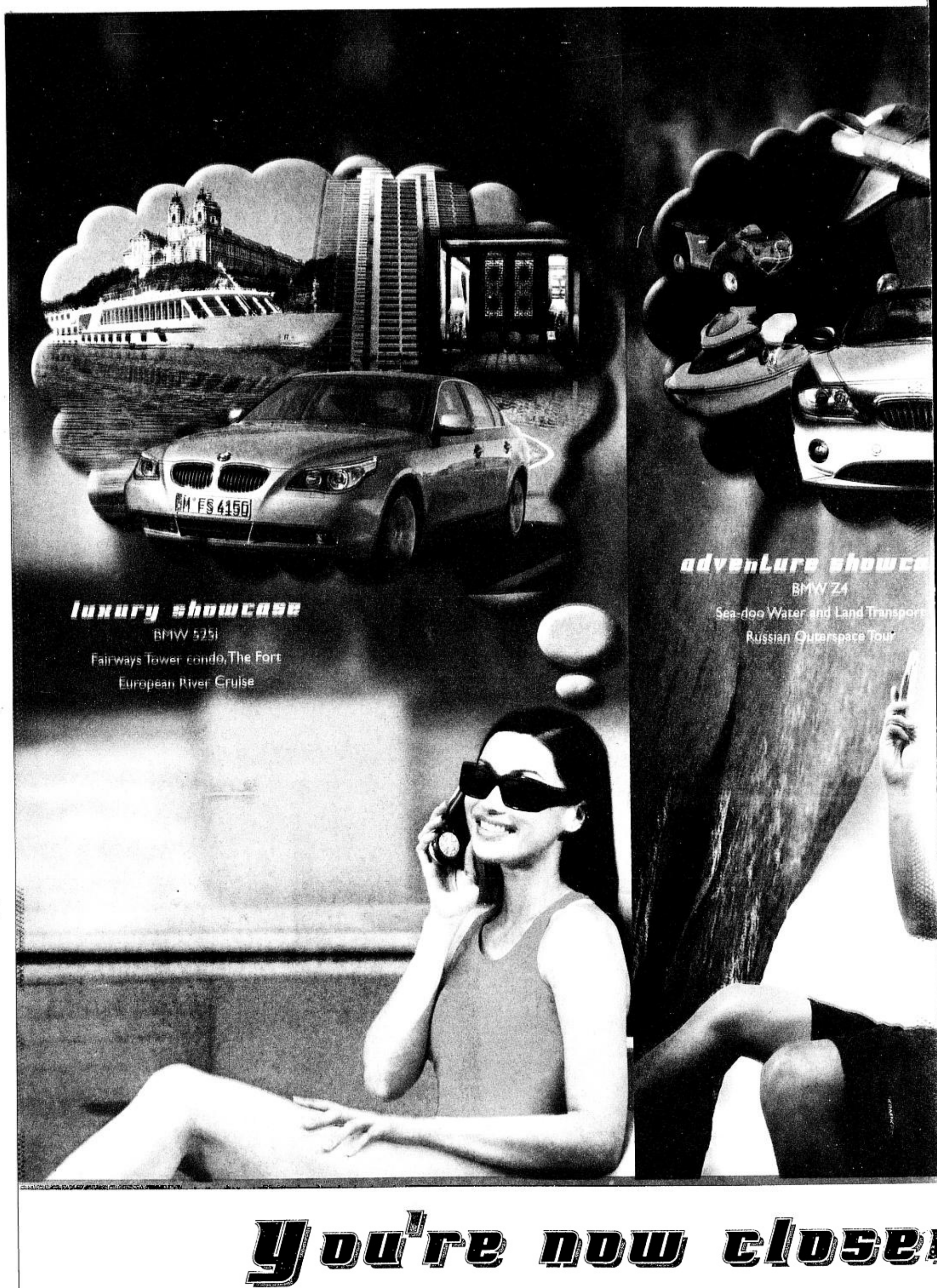

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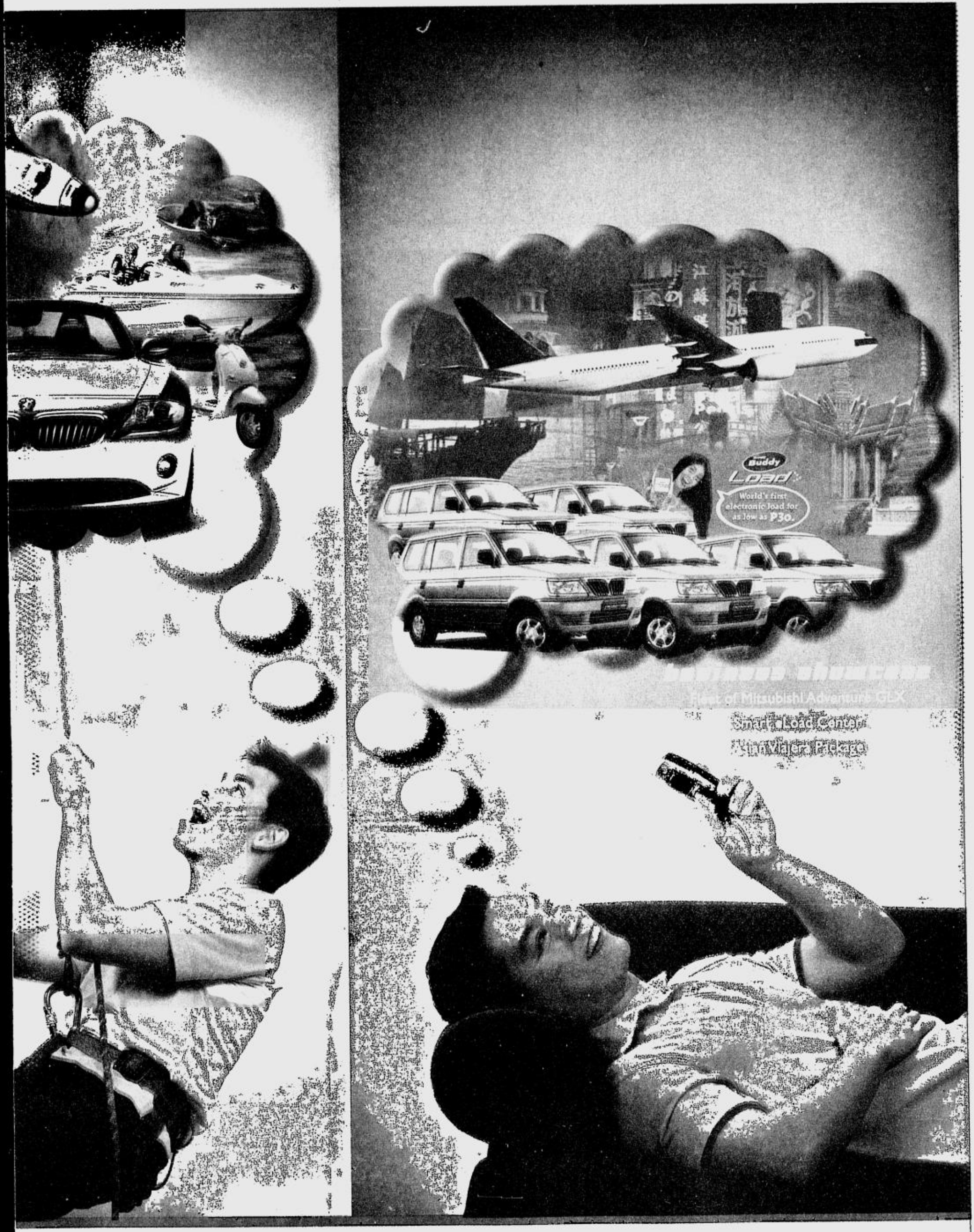

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Carding joins Rey

TOGETHER AGAIN and having fun again, Carding and Rey of the Reycard Duet, world-class singing and laugh-making entertainers

By Marinel R. Cruz

RICARDO Castro, better known as Carding of the Reycard Duet, called his family in Manila on Nov. 2 from Las Vegas, Nevada, and told them he was feeling well and would be home in a few days.

A week later, Carding slipped into coma and never woke up.

He died of cardiac arrest in a hospital in Las Vegas last Thursday at 6 a.m. (Manila time), according to his youngest sister, Belen Castro.

Carding was 70.

Complications due to diabetes caused the heart attack, said his sister.

RICARDO Castro, 70

Rey Ramirez, the other half of the Reycard Duet, died in August 1997.

Rey's death had broken Carding's heart, according to their close friends in show business.

Carding had suffered his fourth stroke last Oct. 30 and was scheduled to undergo brain surgery, she said.

"He had collapsed and hit his head on a hard object when he fell," Belen told INQUIRER Entertainment Thursday afternoon. "The doctors were supposed to cut his head open to check for nerve damage."

She said that on Nov. 9, she received a long-distance call from her sister, Angelita, informing her that Carding was already in "critical condition."

Carding is survived by his sons Bongbong, Anthony and Jerico, and siblings Saturnina, Angelita and Belen.

Carding, an American citizen, lived in the US with Angelita and his eldest son, Bongbong. He went home to Manila every six months.

"Lita did not tell me that Carding had already slipped into coma," said Belen. "She probably did not want me to worry."

Carding's remains were cremated in accordance with his wishes. His relatives are still deciding whether to bring his ashes to the Philippines.

Carding was married to a Japanese woman but they had been separated.

After Rey died in 1997, the lonely Carding appeared in a few movies for Star Cinema and was in the cast of "Home Along da Riles" on ABS-CBN.

In 2001, Carding stepped into the shoes of singer Pilita Corales' late partner, Bert "Tawa" Marcelo, as host of the amateur singing contest "Batang Kampeon."

Pilita said that Carding was supposed to do a series of shows with her in Manila and in Canada later this month.

"Sadly, we had to cancel the shows," said Pilita in a radio interview Thursday morning. "His loved ones would surely miss him.

"I had traveled with him around the world," she added. "He was a very fun-loving person."

Belen described Carding as a kind-hearted brother. She said the comedian was able to buy his siblings their own houses before he died.

"Whenever he called, he would always remind me to take care of his sons and the house he bought for me," Belen recalled.

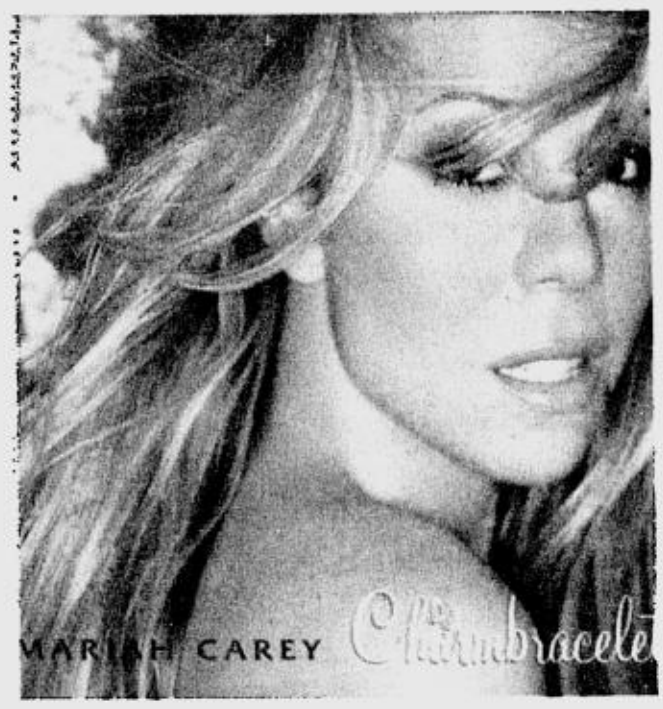
Rey and Carding first teamed up in 1953 during a singing contest in Quiapo, Manila, where they won first prize.

In 1954, they started calling themselves the Reycard Duet and became the most famous entertainers at the Clover Theater and the Manila Grand Opera House, both in Manila.

The Reycard Duet also performed in town fiestas, on television and radio in the '50s.

In the 1960s, the Reycards hit it big in Las Vegas, which became their home for more than 40 years. They became known not only in the US but also in Europe and other parts of the globe.

In the early '90s, they hosted "Awitawanan," with Pilita on Channel 13. They also starred in comedies like "Katabi Ko'y Mamaw and "Yes, Yes, Yo, Kabayong Kutsero."



Mariah Carey performs at the Fort tonight

MARIAH Carey brings her "Charmbracelet World Tour" tonight to the Fort Open Field, starting at 8 p.m.

The Manila show promises to be an eventful evening for both the diva and her Pinoy fans. She is expected to sing her hits, from "Visions of Love," her first No. 1 hit in 1990, to "Butterfly," "Fantasy," "Always be My Baby," "Never Too Far" and "Emotions," as well as her latest chart-topper, "Bringing on the Heartbreak," from the album "Charmbracelet."

SHOW TIME

Mariah Carey's Charmbracelet 2003 World Tour is presented by Globe's G Plan Opti SIM, Petron Blaze and Tommy Hilfiger Watches, in cooperation with No Curfew, the official Tommy Hilfiger watch store, Discovery Suites, Mossimo, Pantene Total Care and GMA Network.

Tickets are available at Ticketworld at all National Bookstore outlets (891-5610, 634-2160).

The concert will start at 8 p.m. but gates will open as early as 3 p.m.

There will be enough parking space and security will be tight to avoid mishaps, according to the producers of The Charmbracelet 2003 World Tour in Manila.

Take Mariah's concert pictures with Panasonic GD88

GLOBE gives you a taste of the glam pop-star experience with its latest glitzy offering, the Panasonic GD88 handset, which comes in a limited offer: Free on the G-Talk Plan at P1,200/month, inclusive of VAT and CERA, available on Nov. 15-16 only.

Use the exciting features of the Panasonic GD88 such as its built-in camera to take MMS pictures of Mariah Carey onstage during tonight's concert at the Fort Open Field starting at 8 p.m.

Globe is also giving its subscribers free Mariah Carey wallpaper and polytone after their line is activated.

Tune in to myGlobe Music Central or get the Panasonic GD88 free with the G-Talk Plan 1200 at the concert venue today, or from any Globe Telecom Business Center or Hub from Nov. 15-16.

Bb. Pilipinas 2004 search on

BINIBINING Pilipinas Charities Inc. has started its search for the Philippine representatives to the Miss Universe, Miss World and Miss International 2004 pageants.

Candidates should be single, 17-25 years old, Filipino citizens, at least 5-foot-5, at least high school graduates, and of good moral character. They are invited to attend the preliminary screenings every Saturday until Feb. 7, from 2 to 6 p.m.

Application forms are available at the BPCI Secretariat at the Araneta Coliseum, through the South Gate entrance, and at the Bb. Pilipinas Boutique on the upper ground floor of Ali Mall in Quezon City.

Aspirants may also download the form from www.bbpilipinas.com and then fax the completed form to 911-2771.

Required documents include original birth certificate or an NSO certified true copy, original high school diploma, Philippine passport or a Department of Foreign Affairs certification that no Philippine passport has ever been issued to the applicant, close-up and full-body color photos.

Pedero seminars to help ease the hard times

DEPRESSED over the hard times? Composer, columnist and life-enhance coach Dero Pedero presents two empowering seminars that will help shift your attitude from helpless despair to enthusiastic hope.

"Make Your Impossible Dreams Come True!," an entertaining and motivating success seminar, will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 19, at 6 p.m.

"Money, Money! Secret Principles of Money & Prosperity," a powerful and enlightening prosperity seminar, follows on Thursday, Nov. 20, also at 6 p.m.

The venue is at the roof deck of the Buendia Tower at 501 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. between Taft and Bautista.

The acclaimed seminars are being offered at a specially discounted holiday season rate of P895.

Registration is ongoing at the venue.

For details, call 897-5167, text (0920) 405-3233 or e-mail DeroSeminars@yahoo.com.

SEX BOMB GIRLS, singers and dancers and actors

Sex Bomb Girls in Antipolo

THE SEX Bomb Girls perform in "Sex Bomb Live. . . Round 2!" at the Ynares Gym in Antipolo City today.

The Antipolo show is the fourth in the Sex Bomb's successful series.

"Sex Bomb Live . . . Round 2!" features non-stop entertainment by the group that is led by Rochelle, together with Jopay, Yvette, Weng, Izzy and Monique, also known as the Sex Bomb Singers, who will sing their hits, from "Bakit Papa?" to the smash hit, "Spageti," and the theme song of their dramedy series, "Daisy Siete," on Channel 7.

Mark Solis, their co-star in "Daisy Siete," will also perform, as well as Ruby Rodriguez, Danz Focus and the Kurimao singers.

Tickets to the "Sex Bomb Live . . . Round 2!" are available at all SM Ticketnet outlets and Odyssey Music and Video Stores.

The musical event is presented by Petron Rev X in cooperation with Crimson Clothing Co. and BMG Records Pilipinas.

"Sex Bomb Live . . . Round 2!" is a production of Focus Entertainment Inc. Call 410-3159 and 415-5445 for details.

TIM AT THE TOP

The Century Park Hotel and Colt Ice Beer and Joey 92.3 FM present another evening of "Tim at the Top," with stand-up comedian Tim Tayag at the Top of the Century on Nov. 27. For inquiries and reservations, call 528-8888.

FIRST ARTIST

Jolina Magdangal is welcomed by GMA Network EVP and COO Jimmy Duavit after the pop icon is signed up as the first contract artist of GMA Records.

Holiday high hopes in Hollywood

LOS ANGELES—Hollywood's film studios enter the second week of holiday moviegoing with seafaring adventure "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World" leading an armada of films that are expected to produce a strong season, box office watchers said on Friday.

Next to the summer, the holiday period that begins in early November and runs through year-end marks the second biggest season for theater owners and accounts for more than 20 percent of total annual ticket sales.

Major releases include "Dr. Seuss' Cat in the Hat" on Nov. 21 and the long Thanksgiving weekend's "The Haunted Mansion," "Bad Santa" and Oscar hopeful "The Missing."

December big guns include the Tom Cruise adventure "The Last Samurai" and the final chapter in the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy, "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King"

Despite a flat box office based on higher ticket prices and lower admissions through October, industry experts believe the slew of major flicks will have box office registers ringing up sales ahead of the New Year.

"We think the strength of the holiday season films should help 2003 domestic box office meet or exceed the $9.4 billion record set in 2002," said veteran entertainment analyst Jeff Logsdon of investment firm Harris Nesbitt Gerard.

That is good news for theater chains like No. 1 US operator Regal Entertainment Group , No. 2 chain AMC Entertainment Inc. , and Carmike Cinemas Inc..

The enthusiasm contrasts to the start of 2003 when box office watchers forecast flat to lower ticket sales after 2002's 13-percent increase in the United States and Canada.

Through October, the domestic box office was off around 2 percent, but last week's Christmas film "Elf" from Time Warner Inc. unit New Line Cinema turned in a strong $32 million and Walt Disney Co.'s family movie "Brother Bear" proved a solid draw in its second week.

Combined with a $50 million domestic debut for "The Matrix Revolutions" the third film in a trilogy from Time Warner's Warner Bros., ticket sales now stand off only 0.3 percent year-to-date at $7.77 billion versus $7.79 billion last year, according to box office tracker Exhibitor Relations Inc.

This week, the gap could widen as "Master and Commander" compares against 2002 mega-hit "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," which spurred a weekend box office of $173 million for the third highest-grossing weekend of 2002, according to analyst Logsdon.

The holiday news is not all cheery, either. Higher box office figures have been built on a 4-percent rise in average ticket prices to $6.03 and a 4-percent drop in admissions to 1.28 billion, according to Exhibitor Relations.

Reuters

Ex-boxer wants share of 'Rocky' profits

NEWARK, New Jersey—Former heavyweight boxer Chuck Wepner is suing actor Sylvester Stallone for a share of the profits from the "Rocky" movies, claiming the series was based on Wepner's career.

Wepner, who went nearly 15 punishing rounds in a 1975 loss to Muhammad Ali, claims in a lawsuit filed Wednesday in state Superior Court in Jersey City that Stallone repeatedly credits that fight as the inspiration for the 1976 Oscar-winning film. Four sequels followed.

"Stallone has been using Chuck's name, and continues to this day, in promoting the 'Rocky' franchise without any permission or compensation," said Anthony Mango, Wepner's lawyer.

Michelle Vega, Stallone's publicist, declined comment.

Mango estimates the five "Rocky" films and associated products have brought in over $1 billion. Wepner is entitled to part of that, the lawyer said.

The lawsuit claims Stallone made several promises to Wepner that he would be financially compensated over the years, but no payments were made, Mango said.

Wepner was a New Jersey club fighter who had a string of victories and eventually caught the eye of boxing promoter Don King. He was called "The Bayonne Bleeder" for the punishment he received, even while winning.

AP

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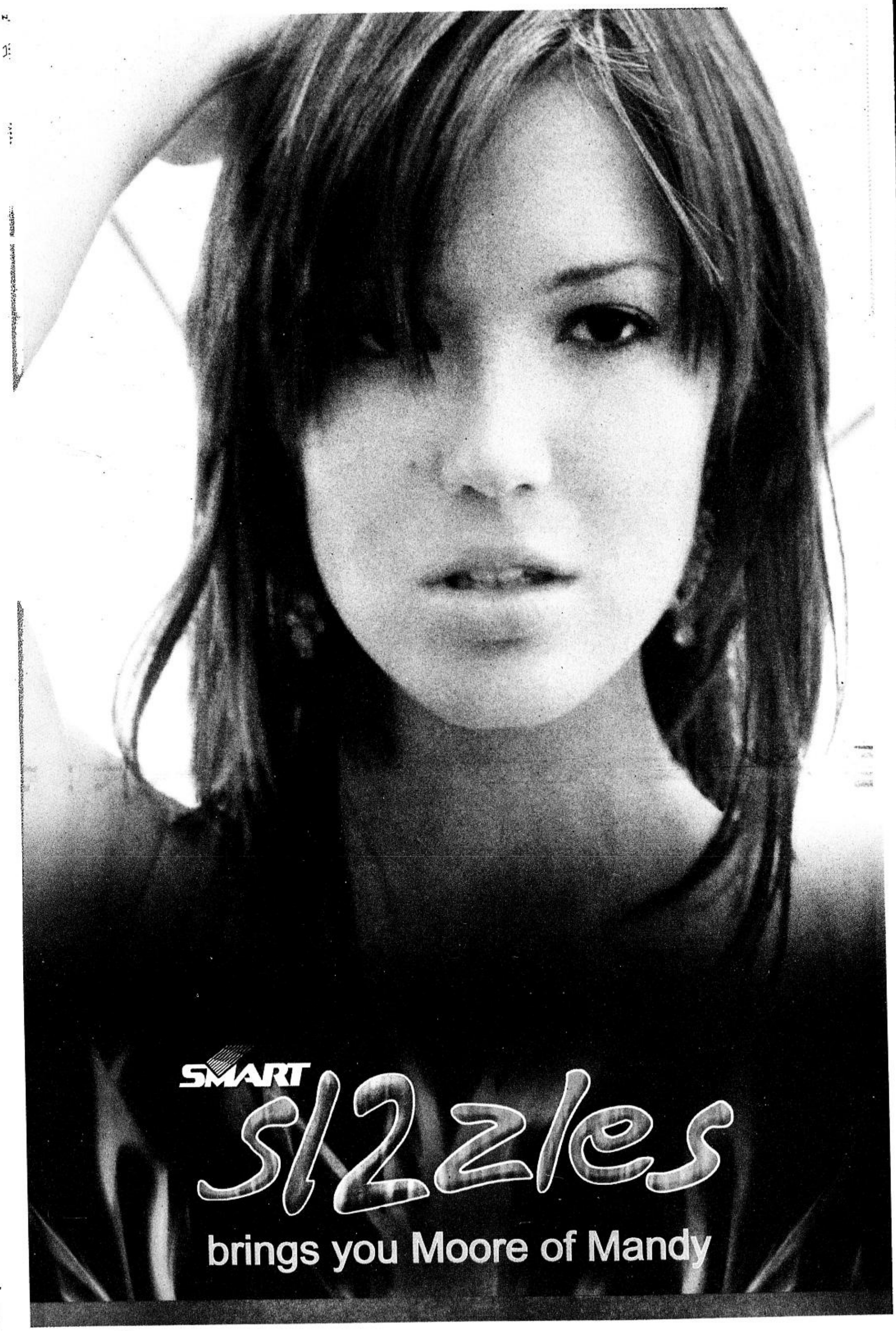

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

For feedback, text us at (0919) 880-3354 or (0916) 200-1160
or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Sharing their good fortune /p. D2

What did fashionistas Audrey Tan, Tina Maristela-Ocampo, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Joanne Zapanta-Andrada and Happy David buy in Divisoria with P1,000 each?

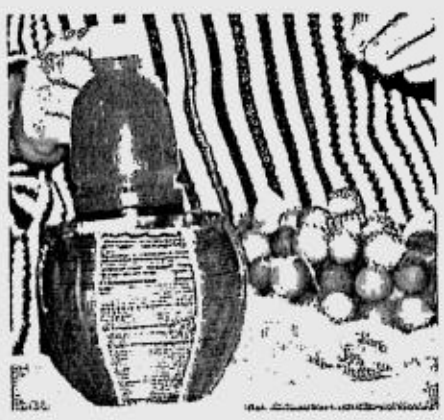
Story in section F

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Splurge vs steal /E1

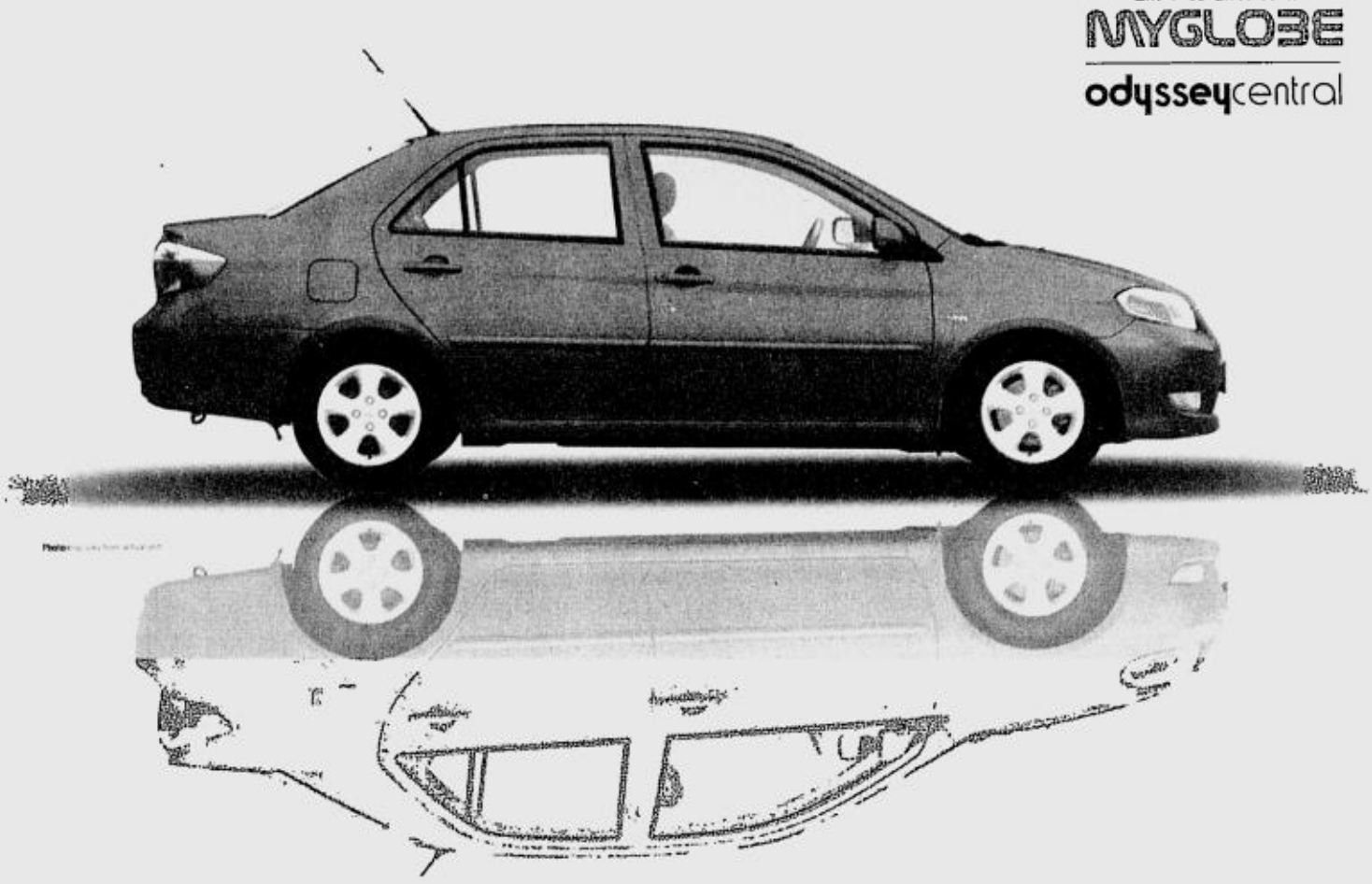
Dream bridal car /I1

The Red Ball dance /K1



Wrap session /M1

all i want is in MYGLOBE
odysseycentral



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2. Baby I Love You - Jennifer Lopez	GM14	GP14
3. Take Your Shoes Off - Cheeky Girls	GM15	GP15
4. Kanlungan - Noel Cabangon	GM16	GP16
5. Real - Plumb	GM17	GP17
6. Nestlé Carito	GM6	GP6
7. Iba Talaga	GM7	GP7

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Get these chart-topping albums at Odyssey outlets!

AL Aboitiz put his company's resources behind efforts to protect and conserve the rare hawkbill turtle.

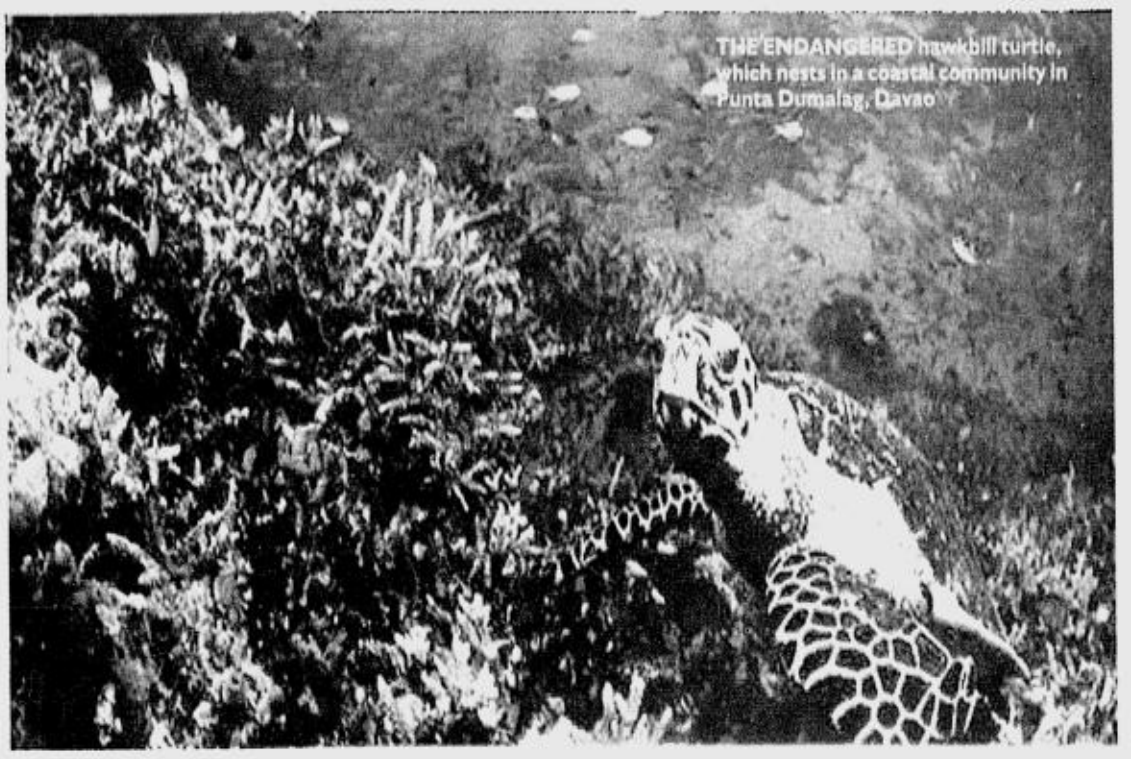
Al Aboitiz
Chief executive officer; Davao Light and Power Company

IN A COASTAL community in Punta Dumalag, Davao, Ernesto "Bebot" Sta. Cruz has watched the nesting activities of one of the world's most endangered animals, the hawkbill turtle, for eight years.

Realizing he couldn't protect the animals alone, Sta. Cruz shared his discovery with the community. But their efforts to get help were thwarted by bureaucracy, lack of funds and political squabbling.

Then Punta Dumalag's Councilor Leo Avila III brought the matter to Al Aboitiz, whose family owned the property where the hawkbill turtles nested. Aboitiz immediately acted on the plight of the turtles, with his company making turtle conservation one of its outreach programs. Consultants and handlers were employed to make sure the animals were cared for properly.

"It is a simple enough task to do in order to preserve these animals," Aboitiz explained.



THE ENDANGERED hawkbill turtle, which nests in a coastal community in Punta Dumalag, Davao

Paying it forward

Having been blessed, four people share their good fortune with others

By Joanne Zapanta-Andrada
Contributor

FOUR special individuals coming from diverse backgrounds have found themselves united by a common cause—to make a difference in the lives of many ordinary Filipinos.

Their commitment has helped preserve and enhance parts of the country, consequently bringing an improvement to the situation of people in those areas.

THE FIRST Filipina pilot leads an NGO that runs feeding centers for malnourished kids.

Aimee Gloria
Co-founder/volunteer, Kabisig ng Kalahi

AURORA "Aimee" Carandang-Gloria has the distinction of being the first Filipino woman pilot in the country and a recipient of the Ten Outstanding Young Women Award in the mid-'90s. These days, she can usually be found in depressed areas helping in feeding centers for malnourished children aged 0 to 6.

A leader of the Kabisig ng Kalahi Task Force, a non-government organization accredited with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Gloria has traveled from Benguet to Basilan to help set up the feeding centers in areas identified by DSWD to have a high incidence of malnutrition.

"A lot of Filipinos complain about the sorry state of our country. I felt that instead of complaining, I should be more productive," she explained.

Interested donors or volunteers may contact Aimee Gloria at 8214366 or 51 or 0917-5291230.

AIMEE Gloria

JOJO Leveriza as a cancer-stricken patient. Now she runs a free school for indigent children.

Jojo Leveriza
Building Blocks co-founder Blessed Hannibal Multi-Level School volunteer

JOCELYN Ann "Jojo" Ho Leveriza has been near death so many times from cancer, and even had the unique experience of attending her own necrological service. In spite of being in and out of comas and great physical pain, she is an active volunteer of the Blessed Hannibal Multi-Level School in the grounds of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Multinational Village, Parañaque City. The school's 62 students receive education, moral formation, meals and uniforms for free.

Leveriza, who started as a teacher, said she was shocked to find 17-year-old boys enrolling in Grade 1. Violence was a common experience for the children, with one student missing school for a few days because his mother was shot by her lover.

Given the plight of her students, Leveriza began to see herself as fortunate.

"Because I have witnessed the children go through unspeakable horrors, I decided that I would bear my cancer and refuse to be broken down by what I saw," she said.

To maintain the school, she continuously asks for P1,000 a month in donations from friends and acquaintances to donate to help defray the school's expenses.

That was how Building Blocks Project was formed. For their generosity, the names of the school's benefactors are engraved on blocks on the school walls so the children can include them in their prayers everyday to show their gratitude and appreciation.

Leveriza feels sorry for the children she has to turn away due to lack of funds, so her appeal for help never ceases.

Interested volunteers and donors may reach her at jaghol@yahoo.com, fax 8250216 (local 104), or call 8200452 and 0917-5182725.

Erlinda Bedico
Masseuse/reflexologist; volunteer, CWL Feeding Program, Magallanes Village; volunteer, St. Claire-Caring for the Sick, Pandacan

FOR MANY years, Erlinda "Inday Bedico was working very hard to make ends meet as *lavandera* to the family of Maria Teresa Ballesteros, then president of the Catholic Women's League.

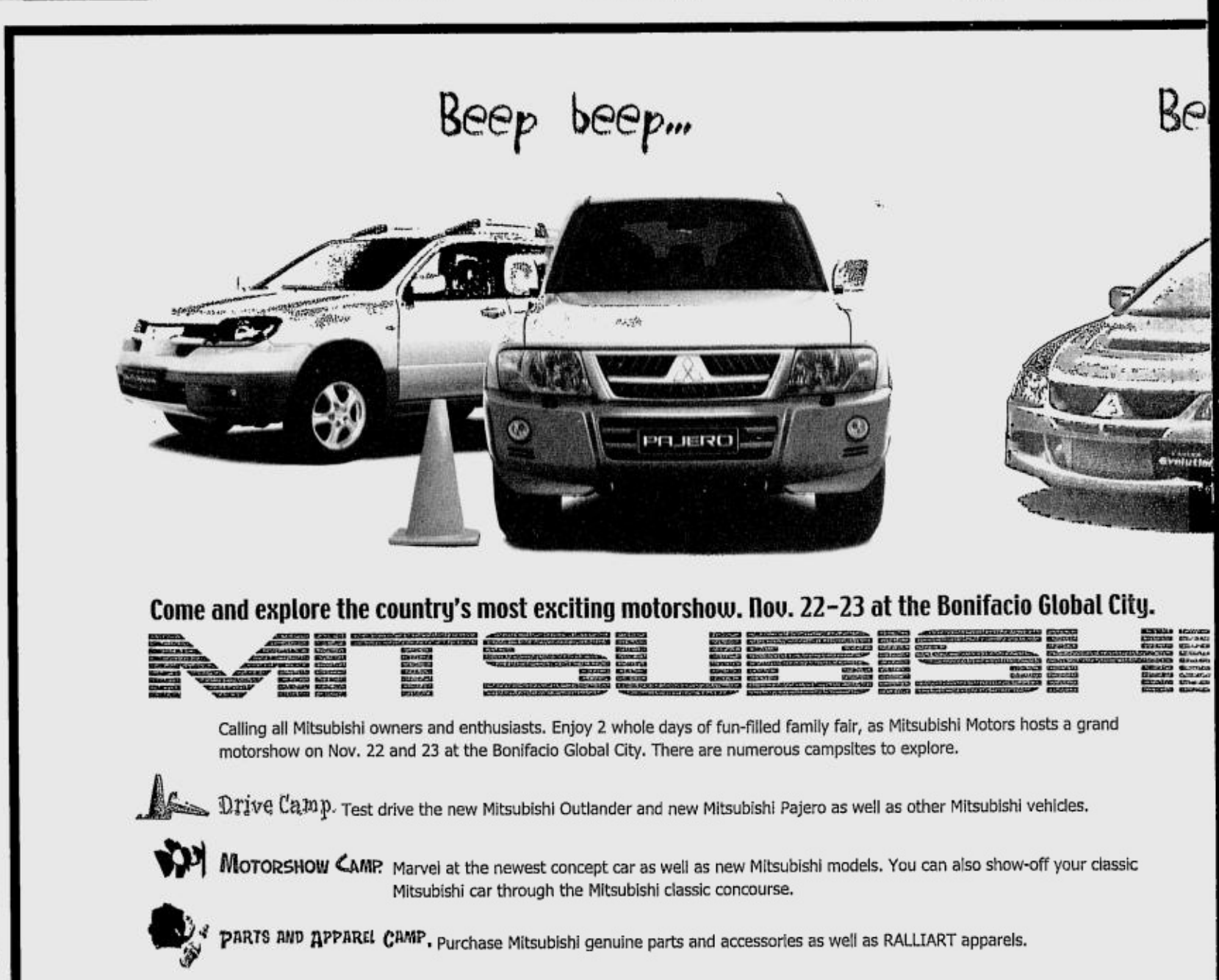
Ballesteros introduced her to CWL's Bible study program. Years later, when Luzviminda Dominguez became league president, Bedico took part in a CWL training in reflexology and massage.

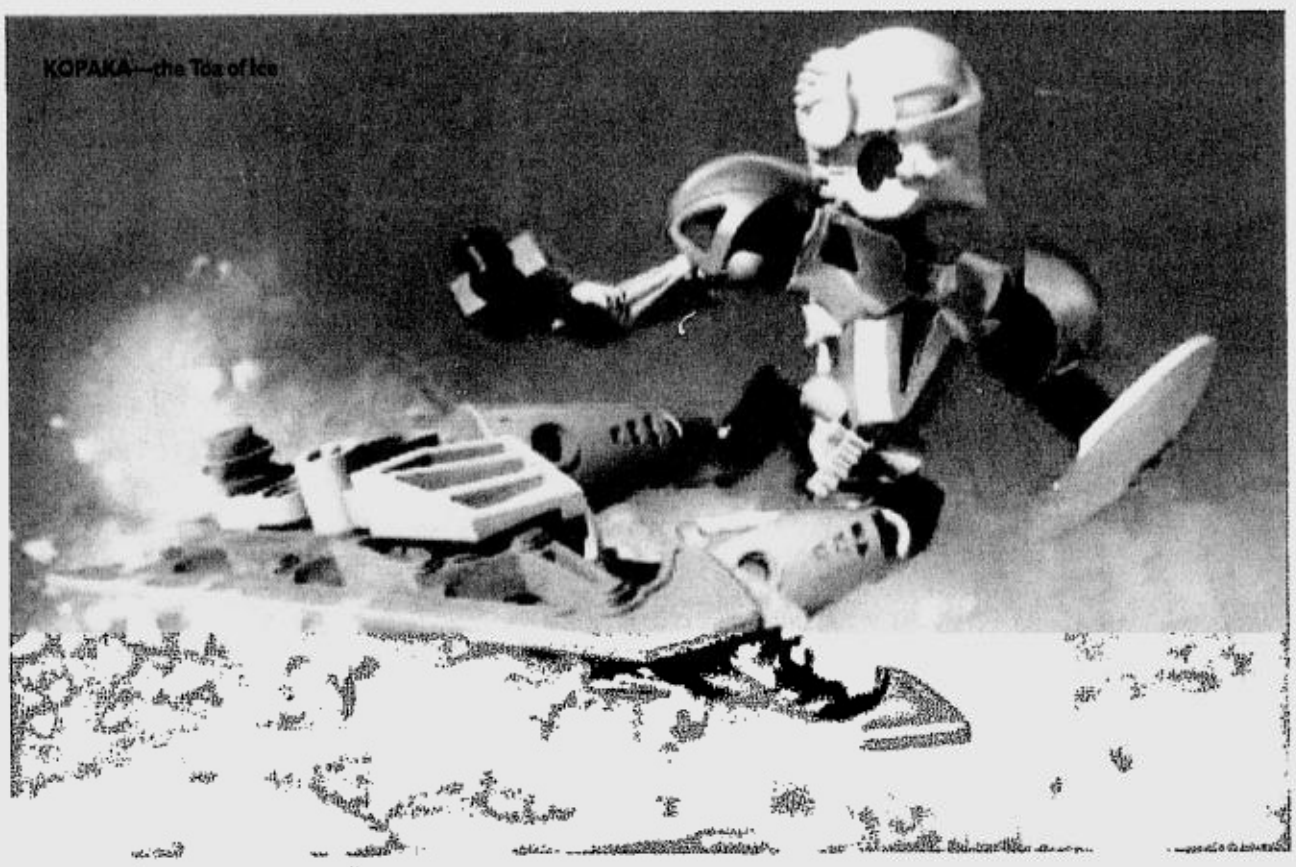
"I was the only one who finished the course because I was the only one that was truly interested," she said. The training gave her and her children a better life.

The experience made Bedico want to help others improve their lives, too, through training, teaching reflexology and massage for free. She also volunteers to manage CWL's feeding activity in Magallanes Village and gives free massage for old and infirm nuns of St. Claire in Pandacan for free.

"If [I didn't get] the opportunity to empower myself with skills, I would still be a *lavandera* and not earn as much as I do now... It is only right that I teach others this skill," Bedico said.

ERLINDA Bedico teaches reflexology and massage classes for free.





Have a fun Saturday and win prizes

MOVE over, Kobe. Start practicing your NBA moves and take on the Lego NBA Challenge.

GIFT Gate presents the Philippine premiere of "Lego Bionicle Mask of Light: The Movie" on Dec. 6 at MyCinema, Greenbelt 3. The adventure of two friends searching for the Mask of Light that will end a tyranny of shadows, the movie chronicles their adventures with the inhabitants of Mata Nui and the six leaders of the Matoran tribes, each representing an elemental force of nature: earth, air, fire, ice, water and stone.

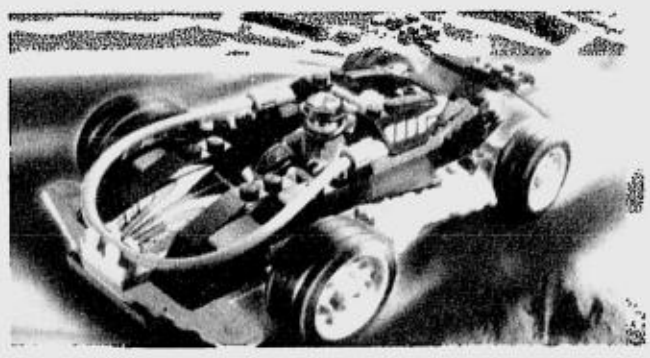
Lego Bioncile collectors can discover the secrets behind the mask by taking part in uncovering its powers. They can trade masks with fellow collectors and complete their collection. They can take on the different Lego challenges and bring home fantastic Lego toys. Or they can make the winning shot and beat the buzzer in the Lego NBA corner.

Bring your own creation of the fastest Lego car and compete with the others. Or put your imagination to the test by bringing your best Lego creations and helping build the world of the future. A giant Lego mat will showcase the "vision" of what the world will be in the future.

Experience the wonders of Lego as Mindstorms presents the intelligent Lego brick or take part in the fun of robotics and view the creations of science students who have put together experiments using Lego.

At Gift Gate stores, a receipt for a minimum P500 Lego purchase until Dec. 1 gets two free tickets to the Lego fun day.

Lego, exclusively distributed by Gate, Inc., is available at all Gift Gate Stores nationwide.



BE fast, be furious. Bring your fastest Lego car and join the race to test your creation.

SCENEMAKERS

The Imeldific 'shoes' off in London

VOGUE UK's website (www.vogue.co.uk) reported on Nov. 13 that former First Lady Imelda Marcos, whom it dubbed a "footwear addict," was spotted shopping at Russell & Bromley on Bond Street in London recently.

The Evening Standard quoted one shopper as saying the Imeldific was buying shoes like there was no tomorrow.

A spokesperson for R&B said, "Mrs. Marcos came in with two girlfriends on Monday lunchtime. She left before the others, who ended up paying for Imelda's shoes as well as their own."

Swollen knee, my foot!

AP

REUTERS

Dimsum 'n Justin

Justin Timberlake has joined the list of celebrities dabbling in the restaurant business. Dim sum is the specialty at Chi, the new Sunset Boulevard (Los Angeles) nightspot in the Hyatt Hotel that Timberlake co-owns with brothers Art and Allan Davis.

The 22-year-old pop singer is focusing on his musical career, including a solo tour and a new 'N Sync album coming out next year, so he'll be a silent partner. *AP*

Good shot Annie

Annie Leibovitz stands next to a photograph she took of hip-hop music star Mary J. Blige before the opening of her new photo exhibit "American Music" at the Experience Music Project in Seattle. The launch of this worldwide tour of Leibovitz photos coincides with the publication of her photo book of the same title. The exhibit features 60 never-before-seen photos of some of America's influential and iconic performers. *Reuters*

Demurely un-dressed

What's so wrong with wearing skimpy outfits and making raunchy videos, Christina Aguilera wants to know. "I'm always kind of in the spotlight for what I wear-and sometimes for what I don't wear," she admitted.

Aguilera is one of the current Big Three of the pop world, along with Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake. Not so long ago, all of them were cute kids who signed on for Disney's Mickey Mouse Club as Mouseketeeers.

Spears once dated Timberlake, who in turn has teamed up with Aguilera to go on tour and promote their latest albums.

Aguilera, who could soon follow in the footsteps of Jennifer Lopez and launch a film career, now urges her fans to "expect the unexpected from an artist like me." *Reuters*

ep beep...

Yeah!!!

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

For feedback, text us at (0919) 880-3354 or (0916) 200-1160 or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

22BC red satin evening dress, P1,399.75 and beaded shawl, P549.75

Splurge versus steal

SATIN evening dress, $3,000 Moschino, WWW.MOSCHINO.COM

Do the math and decide which you'd rather have: the dress that looks dreamy but will leave you broke or the one that looks great and saves you money

IS THERE such a creature as a frugal fashionista? Sure, there is. In these tough times, even those who can afford to dress to the nines are looking to save a few bucks. Why spend a fortune on a dress you'll only wear once, right?

Lucky for the stylish set, 22BC, originally named Prêt-a-Porter, has the right idea. It offers special treats to women like very affordable gowns. For young women, 22BC has a collection for graduations and junior-senior proms.

To match different wardrobes, the label has a wide range of ponchos, shawls and boleros.

A favorite among women is its corporate collection, which offers stylish office wear.

Best of all, 22BC can dress up any woman from size 4 to size 16.

A pioneer in producing designer RTW la-

SPLURGE/ E2

SMART MUSIC LINK

Tone Trippin'
<Looking for the perfect tone? Find it right here.>

Masters Of Chant Chapter IV
Gregorian
Clocks
Keyword: clocks

Heavier Things
John Mayer
Split Screen Sadness
Keyword: splitscreen

The Movie Album
Barbra Streisand
I'm In The Mood For Love
Keyword: indmood4luv

80's Replay
Various Artists
Mickey by Toni Basil
Keyword: mickey

Playlist
Paolo Santos
Coffee Cup
Keyword: coffeecup

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To automatically receive one of the featured tones every week, key-in TONE (for ringtones) or [illegible] (for polytones) and send to 209.

TOWER RECORDS · VIDEO · BOOKS Top 25 Albums of the Week

1	**Tunog Acoustic** Various Artists	10	**Popstar: A Dream Come True** Sarah Geronimo	18	**Heavier Things** John Mayer keyword:
2	**Piano Player** Maksim	11	**The Movie Album** Barbra Streisand keyword:	19	**Sacred Love** Sting
3	**A.K.A.: Almost Kinda Acoustic 2** Various Artists keyword: *missingyou*	12	**Master Of Chant Chapter IV** Gregorian keyword: cl	20	**A.K.A.: Almost Kinda Acoustic** Various Artists
4	**Michael Bublé** Michael Bublé	13	**Life For Rent** Dido	21	**Remixes** Mariah Carey
5	**Long Ago Tomorrow** Siobhan Pettit	14	**Playlist** Paolo Santos keyword: coffeecu	22	**The R. in R&B Greatest Hits Vol. 1** R. Kelly
6	**Coverage** Mandy Moore	15	**Acoustic Night Live** Various Artists	23	**The Very Best Of Sheryl Crow** Sheryl Crow
7	**As Time Goes By** Rod Stewart	16	**New York City** The Peter Mallick Group featuring Norah Jones keyword: newyork	24	**Metamorphosis** Hilary Duff
8	**Totally Bublé** Michael Bublé keyword: *untaling4u*	17	**Buddha's Pest** The Mongols	25	**80's Replay** Various Artists keyword: keyword:
9	**Bigotilyo** Parokya Ni Edgar keyword: *veshow*				

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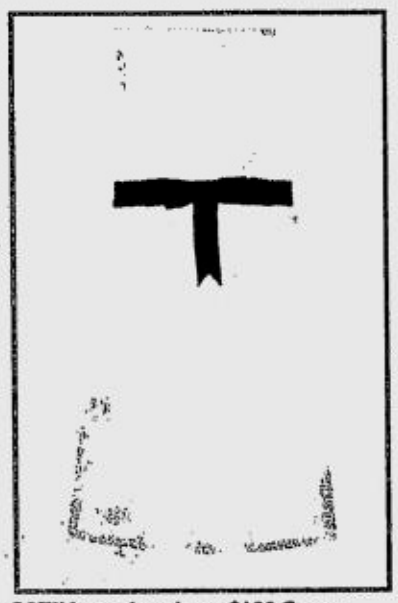

SATIN strapless dress, $180 Corey Lynn Calter
LUCKY MAGAZINE

22BC keeps with the times through updated styles at friendly prices

Splurge versus steal

SATIN strapless dress, $395 Jovani Fashions
WWW.YOURPROM.COM

22BC satin strapless dress with faux diamond-studded buckle, P1,199.75

From page E1

bels since 1985, 22BC has made available through the years the designs of Cesar Gaupo, Christian Espiritu, Sammy Tiongson, Marden Iglesias, Rei Bancil and Loretto. As a best-selling label at the SM Department Store's Boutique Square, it has kept its following.

The shop offers privileges: Free alteration services on all regular-priced items; a lifetime 10 percent discount card upon accumulation of P8,000 worth of purchase; 20 percent off birthday discount for those in the mailing list; store and sale event notification through mailers, e-mail and text; and a 24-hour hotline for queries, suggestions or complaints (0917-501 1231).

The store also provides updates through www.22bc.com.ph.

The 22BC shop is at the Boutique Square of the SM Department Stores in SM City-North Edsa, SM Cubao, SM Makati, SM Megamall, SM City Manila, SM City Cebu, SM City Bacoor, SM Fairview and SM Iloilo.

PHOTOGRAPHER: MARLON DESPUES
ASSISTED BY: KEN GO
STYLIST: DONNA CUNA- PITA
HAIR AND MAKEUP: PEDDY ACEBO
MODEL: FORTUNE SANTOS OF PMAP

LACE strapless dress, $250 Arden B.
LUCKY MAGAZINE

22BC lace strapless dress, P1,399.75

BEADED ball gown, $480 Tiffany Designs WWW.YOURPROM.COM

22BC beaded ball gown in white shantung and organza, P2,099.75

Winners of singing tilt for PWDs

KASAMAKA SINGING CHAMPIONS. (front row) Peñafrancia Abalos, fourth place; Nastassja Helene Lakshmi Ramos, fifth place; John Soriano, second place; Rechelda Carpio, champion; Isagani Peteros, third place; (at the back) Dr. Augusto Pacheco, GSFI director; Henry Martin, judge; Vic Salgado, emcee; lawyer Jorge Ventayen, GSFI VP and vice chair; Beth Gelena (partly hidden), judge; Noel Cariquitan III, judge; Ray Cajigal Lacanlale Sr., GSFI chair and president; and Tony Cobarrubia Jr., judge.

THE grand finals of "Project: Kasamaka (Kantahan Para sa mga may Kapansanan)," a singing competition for persons with disabilities was recently held at Philamlife Theater, United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila.

"Kasamaka" is a major project of the Gintong Saklay Foundation Inc. (GSFI).

Rechelda R. Carpio from Dagat-dagatan, Caloocan City, bagged the first prize with her rendition of "I Who Have Nothing." She won the top prize of P7,500 in cash, a scholarship grant for voice and stage performance courtesy of the Center for Pop Music Philippines and a trophy donated by Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao B. Trinidad.

John I. Soriano, who hailed from Cauayan City, Isabela, won second prize for his interpretation of "Dakilang Lahi." He brought home P4,000 in cash, trophy, scholarship grant and other gifts.

Other winners were: Isagani A. Peteros of Diliman, QC, "Dakilang Lahi," third prize; Peñafrancia H. Abalos of Silang, Cavite, fourth prize, "Tell Me"; Nastassja Helene Lakshmi F. Ramos, fifth prize, "Sana'y Wala nang Wakas."

Members of the panel of judges were: Butch Albarracin, founder and executive director of the Center for Pop Music Philippines (he was represented by Tony Cobarrubia Jr.); Vehnee Saturno, recording personality and multiawarded songwriter and arranger; Beth Gelena, People's Journal Tonight columnist; Henry Martin, former winner of Kasamaka and founder-school director of Henry Martin School of Music; and Noel Cariquitan, former Kasamaka champion.

Weekends of eventful shopping

THE NOEL Discovery Bazaar at Manila Polo Club is set on Nov. 29-30. Beneficiaries include GMA Kapuso, Bantayog ng mga Bayani and the Hands On Manila Foundation. Call 6870654/6872955 or e-mail cut@pacific.net.ph.

Weekend market

"Pasko! Pasko! Sa Weekend Market" is held every Friday and Saturday starting at 5 p.m.

The market is located at the grounds of Market! Market!, across International School in Bonifacio Global City. Call 7528009, 8158003 or (0916) 3342430, (0916) 7018135.

SEASONAL Options' Santas in various shapes and sizes, on display at the Noel Discovery Bazaar, is sure to give any home that warm Yuletide touch.

New ideas to liven up Christmas spread

LEARN new ideas and delicious recipes to liven up your celebration of the Yuletide season this year. Watch "In the Holiday Mood" cooking and baking demonstration Nov. 22, 1-4 p.m., at the San Miguel Head Office Cafeteria.

Presented by San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center, learn from culinary expert Reggie Aspiras and chef Joey Prats. Registration is free but on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested participants can exchange two wrappers of Magnolia Gold Butter, Dari Creme Classic, Magnolia Cream Cheese, Purefoods Fiesta Ham and Purefoods Corned Beef, Monterey and Magnolia Chicken Ginili-ing for an entrance ticket. Call 6719876 local 402, 404 or 407.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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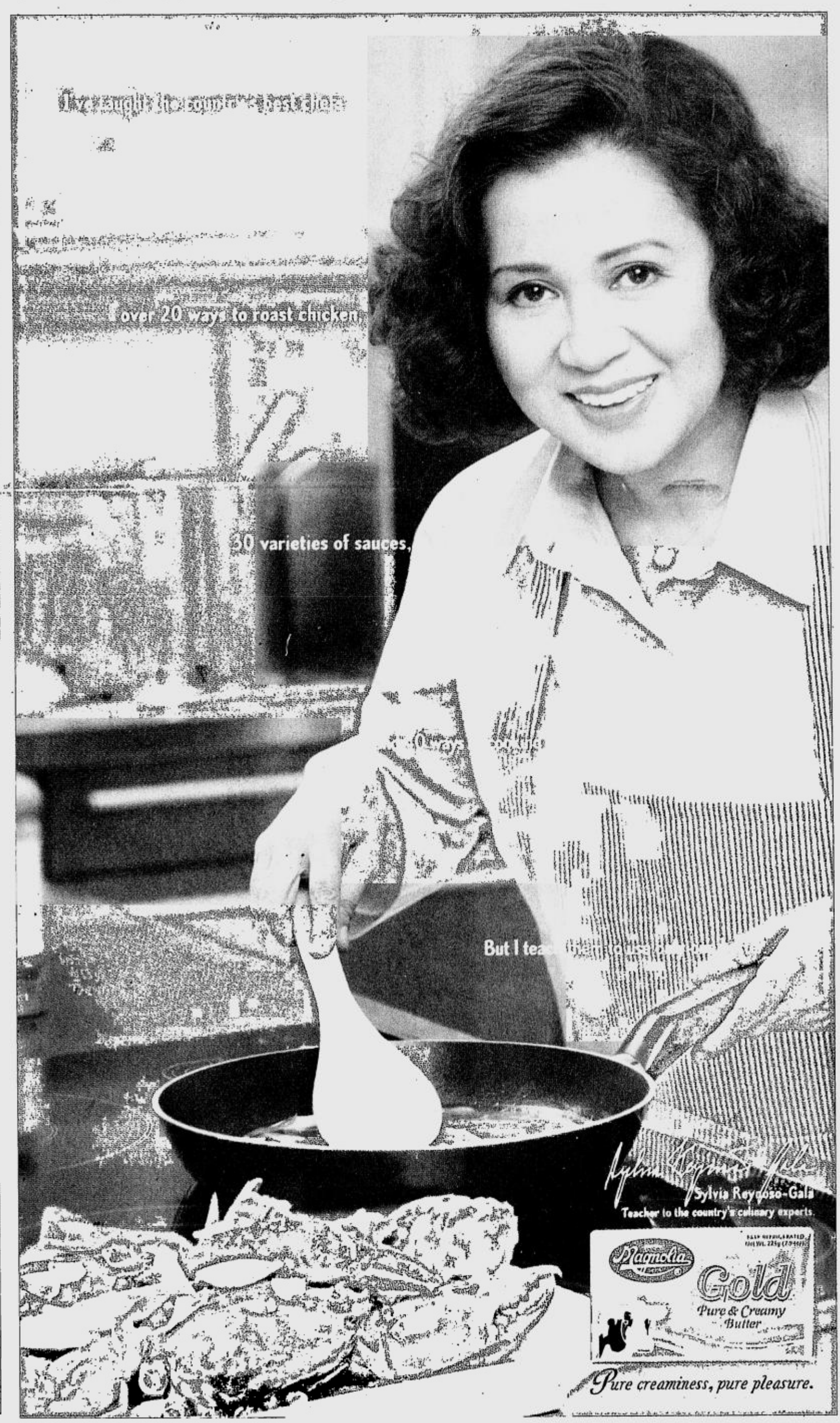


Happy birthday, Kitty

SURPRISES, surprises and more surprises as Hello Kitty—known for the red ribbon on her left ear—adds yet another twist to her charmed and colorful life by teaming up with Red Ribbon Cakes.

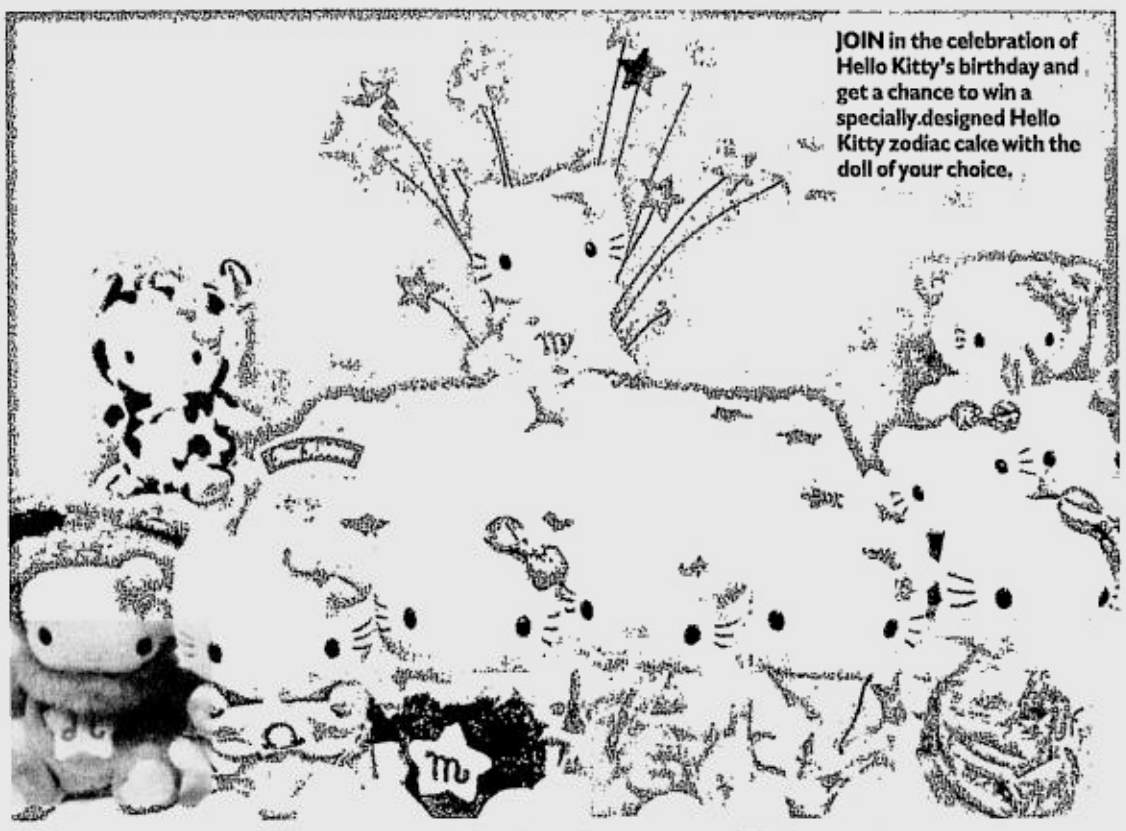
Kitty gives you a chance to enjoy Red Ribbon's exclusive line of Hello Kitty cakes as it joins Gift Gate in the birthday celebrations with "Hello Kitty! Hello Birthday!" lucky draw promo. One hundred-twenty winners get a chance to bring home especially designed birthday cakes, topped with a Hello Kitty Zodiac doll of your choice.

With 12 Zodiac designs, you can choose your favorite doll and eat your cake, too. Any purchase at any Gift Gate, Sanrio Surprises or Red Ribbon Store entitles you to join the raffle.

And for those who first fell in love with Hello Kitty in the '70s and '80s, turn back the time with a birthday gift that is sure to be a classic. From "small, cute things" that Kitty enjoys, this cat who has become an international brand sensation now has her very own haute couture—or shall we say haute "cuteture"—line exclusive to Gift Gate. The KT for Kitty line especially designed by young up-and-coming fashion designer Kate Torralba gives this feline a more mature and classy look. With hip bright colors of lime, pink, purple and blue, the collection features Hello Kitty's face in sequined beads. The initial offering showcases an assortment of bags, skirt and shirts. The KT for Kitty line is now available at Gift Gate Megamall and Glorietta 2 Stores.

Hello Kitty also celebrates her birthday month with party favors for all Sanrio shoppers for a minimum P100 purchase and special gift-wrapping for a minimum P300 purchase.

Red Ribbon is a Sanrio licensee of Gift Gate Inc. Sanrio, exclusively distributed by Gift Gate Inc., is available at all Gift Gate and Sanrio Surprises Stores nationwide. Call 7269076 or e-mail cm@giftgate.com.



JOIN in the celebration of Hello Kitty's birthday and get a chance to win a specially-designed Hello Kitty zodiac cake with the doll of your choice.

PINK, yellow or blue—choose your design for the perfect Hello Kitty cake from Red Ribbon.

HAVE a great Kitty birthday party with numbered Hello Kitty birthday cakes you can celebrate every year with.

HAPPY birthday, Kitty! Hello Kitty gets a birthday kiss from a little princess.

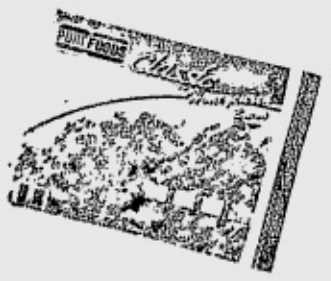
UNLOCK A FRESHER, TASTIER BACON

PUREFOODS Classic Honeycured Bacon

Zip 'n' Seal

ONLY PUREFOODS HONEYCURED BACON COMES IN THE RESEALABLE ZIP 'N' SEAL PACK.

1. Cut along the dotted line the first time you use it. 2. Reseal your Zip 'n' Seal bag to keep your bacon fresh and delicious.



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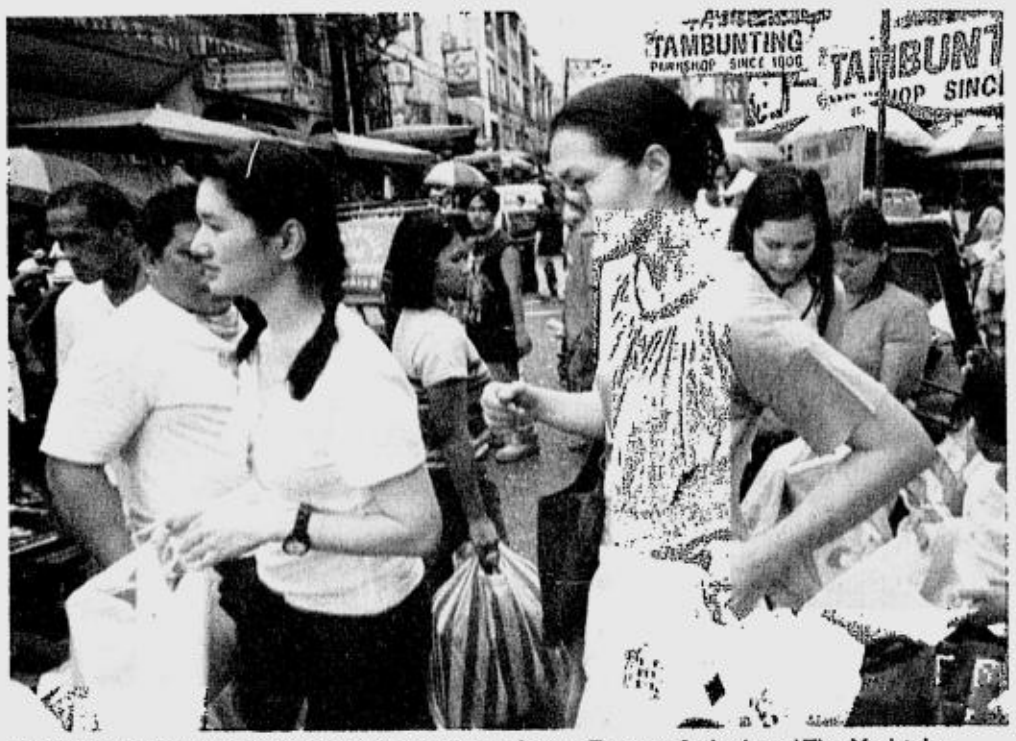


UNFAZED by the street bustle, '80s ramp empresses Joanne Zapanta-Andrada and Tina Maristela-Ocampo gracefully take to the Divisoria catwalk.

HAPPY David, Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Audrey Tan happily haul their style steals. Prieto-Valdes' cousin Margaret and her boyfriend Javier gamely join the pack.

Divine divas in Divi

Lifestyle lets loose five fashionistas in the bowels of Manila for the bargain hunt of a lifetime

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

THE FEVERISH haggling, the claustrophobia, the stench, the tumult and the frenzy—some things never change, indeed. Definitely not Divisoria.

Divisoria is the year-round *tiangge* of shops with fancy and not-too-fancy wares, and of hawkers' carts bearing practically the whole world—from huge styrofoam boxes piled a story-high to delicious and odoriferous *manga't bagoong*.

The carts are parked on the sidewalks, or pushed across the street, right onto the path of jeepneys and pedicabs. But there seems to be an unspoken signal among Divisoria's denizens because accidents are nil.

Invectives are hurled to and fro, like a loud smack of Roddick's racket. But they don't go out of hand. If anything, they only add to the character of the place. Divisoria has its own code of civility.

Divisoria is where things happen even before you know it. You dillydally and you get hustled, elbowed, stepped on, groped, mugged, run over...

Challenge

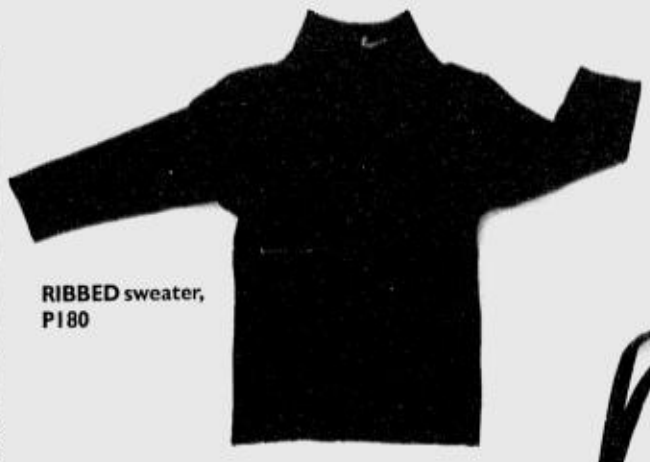
And because Lifestyle is much like Divisoria in making things happen, especially unthinkable things, it challenged five style donnas with expensive tastes to bargain-hunt in Divisoria, equipped with no more than P1,000 each as shopping money and their inimitable style eye, haggling skills and guts to put up with the hassles.

There was Lifestyle columnist and style icon Tessa Prieto-Valdes, who invited pretty model Audrey Tan to come along. Former ramp queens Tina Maristela-Ocampo and

DIVINE/ F2

JOANNE'S BUYS

BEHIND A CHIC PRESIDENT IS... JOANNE. "When you want to buy stuff in bulk, there's no better place to go than Divisoria," Zapanta-Andrada says, here haggling for a lip gloss.



RIBBED sweater, P180

KITTEN-HEELED slip-ons, P250

BLACK bag with heart-shaped patch, P140

Divine divas in Divi

DENIM jeans with grommets and patches, P200

From page F1

Joanne Zapanta-Andrada also readily took on the challenge. Young accessories designer Happy David rounded up the bunch.

Of course, letting these women of the perfumed crowd loose in the bowels of Manila summoned dreadful visions of a security nightmare. There was bound to be trouble. All were head-turners, even sans makeup; their very image was a stark contrast to the entrails of Divisoria. Any idiot with evil designs would easily deduce the women could all afford to pay ransom.

But the women were game, indeed more game than we expected. Abandoning the air-conditioned comforts of their car, they took on the Divisoria challenge.

Like the ramp model that she once was, Maristela-Ocampo strode regally on the filthy pavement in (gasp!) three-inch stilettos. "These are my flats," she said.

The diminutive but deadly Prieto-Valdes left her glitzy costumes at home. But since, like Divisoria, some things never change, she donned sanguine-red jeans and attached aqua-colored extensions to her hair.

Though simply dressed in jeans and sleeveless top, Tan, a Divisoria virgin, still looked like she was off to a posh Makati mall. But the young woman wisely put on comfy shoes.

Zapanta-Andrada and David, confessed Divi vets both, were poised for "battle." The latter even wore an army camouflage shirt, albeit not deliberately. "Rule No. 1," said Zapanta-Andrada, who wore a plain white tee and black jeans, "dress down."

No, the ladies had no *yayas* holding out umbrellas for them—that only happens in Joey Gosiengfiao-Elwood Perez movies. The women were so cool throughout, oblivious to the stink and the midday heat. They bravely elbowed their way through the sweaty mill.

Attention

"I've been wanting to come here since high school," said the 21-year-old Tan, a college senior at the Ateneo. The young mestiza was obviously not used to the crowd; she was unwary of the leery looks and catcalls she was eliciting from the male onlookers. Zapanta-Andrada urged her to stick to her side.

To our relief, the group easily blended with the crowd. Hawkers and shoppers went about doing their thing—until they noticed our photographer clicking away. Kibitzers threw curious glances; some boldly milled around us.

"*Sino sila? Artista?*" some whispered. Others were more suspicious. "*Bakit may* camera? *May* raid?"

Fashionista finds

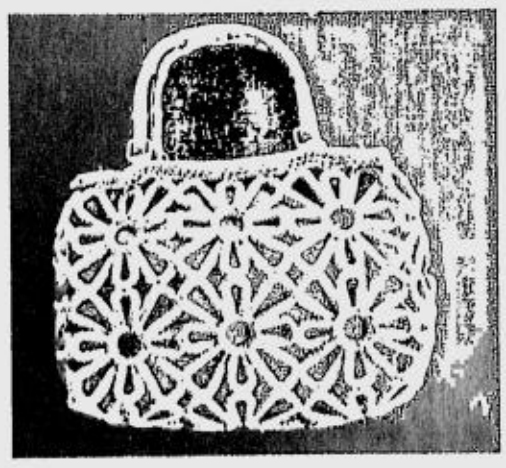
Divisoria may have the reputation for being bootleg goods paradise, but it has other things to satiate bargain-hunting fashionistas.

AUDREY'S BUYS

BUYING CONGRESS. Tan, Rep. Miguel Zubiri's charming girlfriend, rummages through a pile of bags and proudly shows off her find.

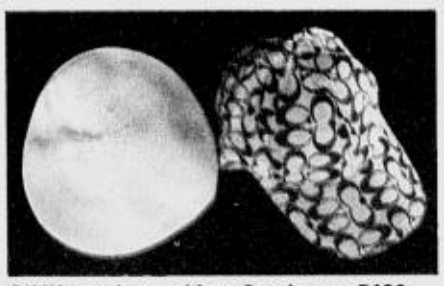
CUTICLE nipper and nail file, P40

FLORAL top, P160



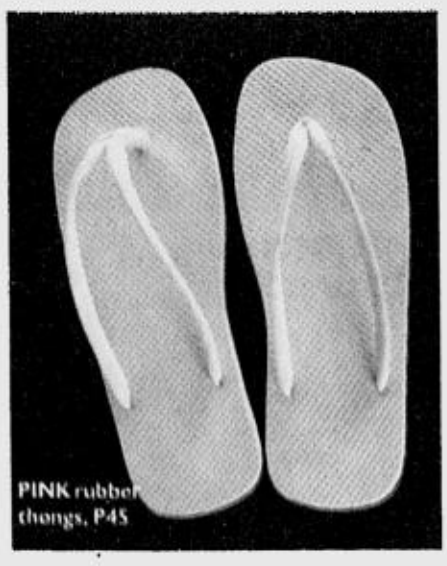
CROCHETED bag with wooden handles, P120

TINA'S BUYS



PINK newsboy and faux Coach caps, P120 each

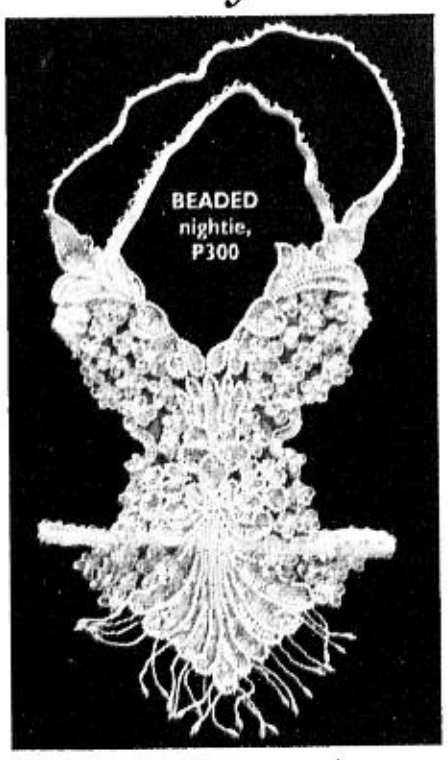
ANONYMOUS DIVA. Maristela-Ocampo conscientiously jots down her spendings.



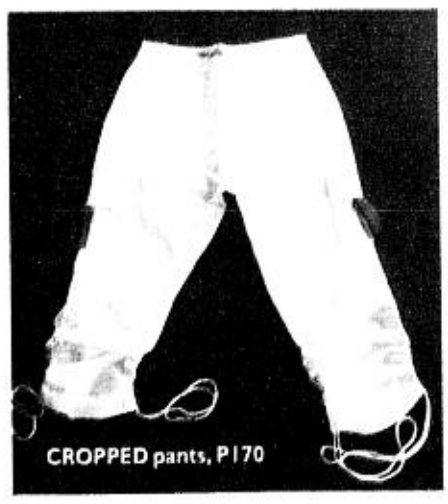
LILAC crocheted bag, P50

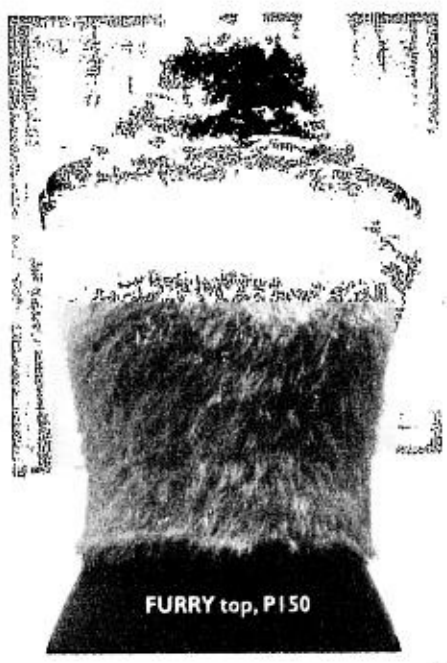
TESSA'S BUYS

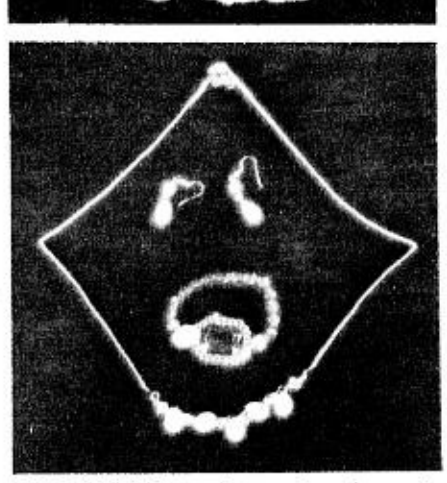
MERRY SHOPPER. After her bargain-trawling, Prieto-Valdes hits the sidewalk for bagsful of Christmas balls.



MOBILE phone stickers, P80







BRACELET, P10; neacklace and earrings set, P40

Prieto-Valdes snatched a furry hot-pink turtleneck top and a sexy beaded nightie, among others. Because hers was a truly impressive loot, the fact she overshot the budget could be ignored.

David said she frequently goes to Divisoria to buy materials for her accessories line called Get Happy (tel. 0917-8106274). She confidently ambled through the crowd, and haggled with ease. From paillette bracelets to bead curtains, her eclectic finds summed up to P1,025.

Tan totaled an even thousand with purchases from a P250 pair of sneakers to a P40 cuticle nipper. "There was this pair of shorts that would be great for the beach," she said animatedly, "but I had spent all the money."

Herself in the garments trade, the perpetually elegant Maristela-Ocampo (who owns MIX, Anonymous and The Black Shop with husband Ricco) seemed cautious in shopping. Her buys totaled to a mere P670. She limited her picks to funky watches and trendy hats for the young.

With her chic choices such as kitten-heeled sandals, brocade Chinoise bag and jeans with patchwork, no wonder Zapanta-Andrada has been getting raves for her makeover of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who in turn has been getting praises for her wardrobe of late. The President's wardrobe consultant admitted she wears stuff bought in Divisoria. And there's no guessing. "*Nasa nagdadala,*" she proudly said. With five items in her shopping bag, she added up to an even thousand.

Like a pro, Zapanta-Andrada shared tips with those who plan to take the Divi route.

DIVINE/ F4

THREE cute crocheted bags (unaccounted for in Prieto-Valdes' computation) that justify a little overspending

HAPPY'S BUYS

Divine divas in Divi

BE HAPPY. Student-entrepreneur David searches for a wallet to contain her earnings.

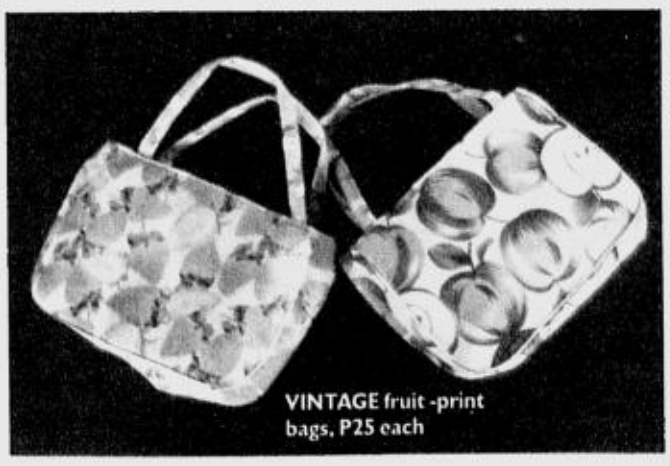
From page F3

"Don't put your money in just one place. Put them in separate pockets," she said. "Look at everything first before buying. You might find something better or cheaper," she added. "Look around; you might find specialty stores you didn't notice before. And write down [alley markers] of items you like so you'll know where to find them later."

Then it was over.

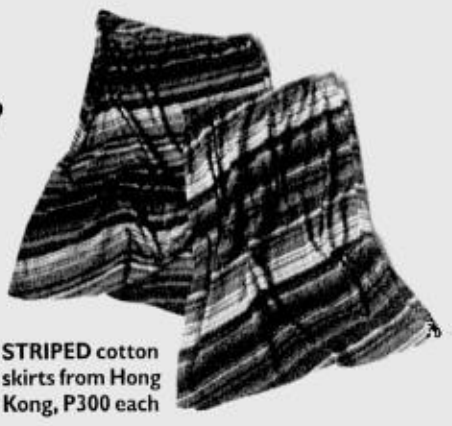
The five stylesetters returned home whole and unscathed, with bagsful of nice and cheap goods to show for a day in the divine pandemonium fondly referred to around town as Divi.

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph



VINTAGE fruit-print bags, P25 each

EMBOSSED synthetic leather wallet, P50



STRIPED cotton skirts from Hong Kong, P300 each

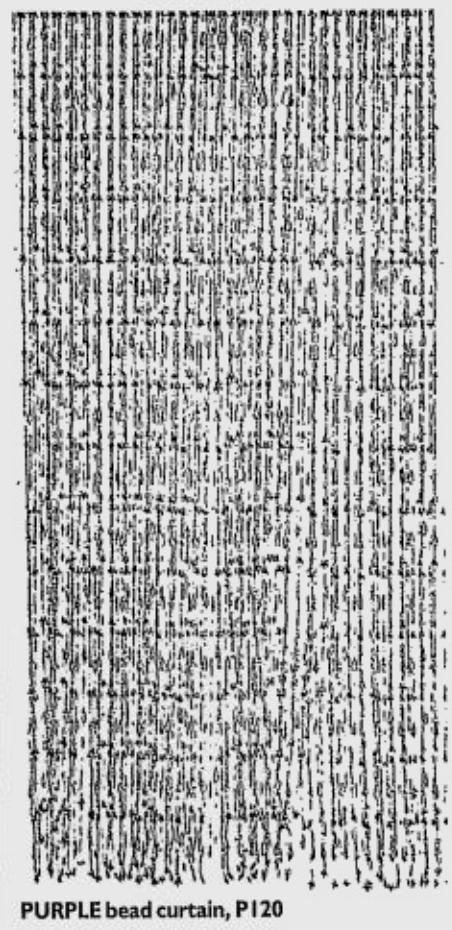
LIP liner cum eye shadow, P25

PAILLETTE bracelets, P10 each. Happy sheepishly says she included only one piece in her computation. PHOTO: EDWIN BACASMAS

DOG-PRINT umbrella, P120

PHOTO: HAPPY DAVID

STRIPED plastic *bayong*, P50



PURPLE bead curtain, P120

PHOTO: EDWIN BACASMAS

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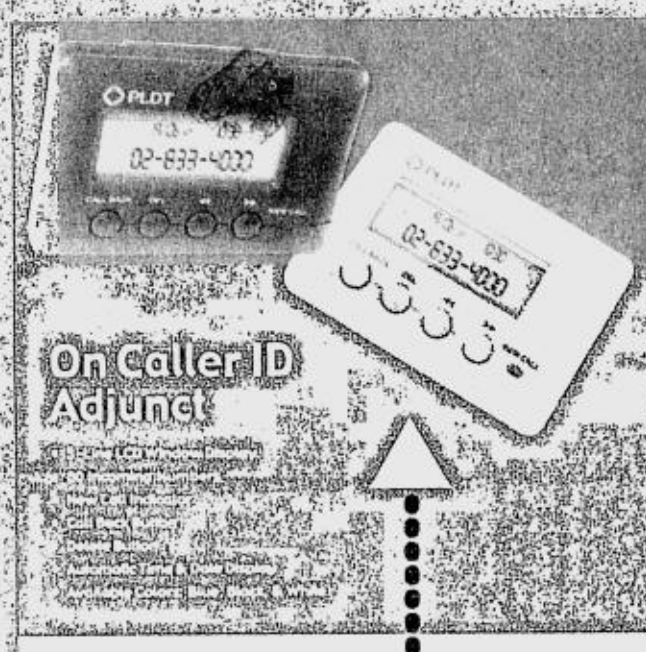

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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THE RING—Slip in these floral baubles!

Beauty buys and world-class store launches

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

PARTIES of the year—The Louis Vuitton and Gucci launches. As predicted, the Louis Vuitton and Gucci boutique launches have set the bar for luxury store openings in Manila.

Not only were the two parties simply world-class, they also ushered in the party season and holiday spirit.

The Louis Vuitton launch saw 10 LV officials, including the president/CEO of Louis Vuitton Malletier **Yves Carcelle**, flying in for the event.

An after-party held at Cats (over at New World Hotel for those below 25) saw champagne flowing until 5 a.m. Even more amazing, the organizers redid the whole place, making it look like a Louis Vuitton disco.

LV reportedly spent close to P10 million for the event, and it showed.

The Gucci opening, on the other hand, had man of the hour **Domenico de Sole**, CEO/president of Gucci Group, with his wife **Eleanor**; **Mimi Pun**, president of Gucci Asia Pacific; and **Celina Ma**, director of PR and advertising for Asia, as hotshot guests.

Gucci is on everyone's lips these days because of the recently announced resignations of de Sole and **Tom Ford**, from the brand. But at the launch, it was business as usual.

The latest buzz is that Mr. de Sole really plans to retire and Ford wants to try his hand at directing films.

The dynamic mother-son team of **Nedy Tantoco** and **Anton Huang**, as well as the fantastic Stores Specialists Inc. group (especially **Jia Estrella**), pulled all stops in making the Gucci event a memorable one.

First, they transformed the Greenbelt 4 hall into an elegant lounge bar, done in black. Then, the day after the opening, a strictly invitational dinner was held at the Peninsula Manila.

The de Soles, meanwhile, hied off to exclusive Amanpulo for some much needed R&R.

The excitement of bringing these luxury brands into the country does not belong only to the owners, but to the consumers as well.

To say that all the fashionistas out here are happy is an understatement. We are ecstatic!

Both stores are located in Greenbelt 4. Check them out.

Must-have beauty accessory—Dior lip compact. This bejeweled lip compact fits perfectly in the tiniest purse or pocket. For now, the "key chain wannabe" comes in two palettes—Happy Few and Show Off. It's not in the country yet, but I hear from the beauty connoisseurs over at Rustan's that it's going to be available soon, so watch out for it!

Must-have rings—flower power. Have you noticed how days are getting shorter, with your work now competing with so many functions such as cocktails, advance Christmas parties, product launches, etc.?

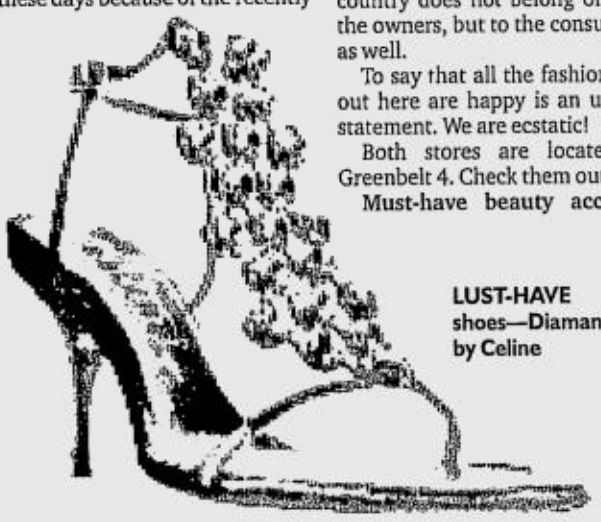
Well, if you are looking for a new conversation piece or want to make a sparkling statement, why not add these floral-inspired rings to your get-up?

I saw a fashionable lady donning one of these baubles at an event. Then I saw an article about it in Harper's Bazaar, so here it is now in TNT's must-have list.

The return of the "little black dress." Several fashionable ladies I know are trying to stay away from black just because they find it boring and drab.

Well, here are exciting alternatives that will place the "little black dress" at the top of anyone's list this time around.

It's all in the neckline, really. An asymmetrical or V-neck makes the classics look modern and sexy. Just check out these stylish A-list celebrities!



LUST-HAVE shoes—Diamante by Celine

MUST-HAVE beauty accessory—Dior lip compact

Friendster vs Fiendster. Two weeks ago, I wrote about how Friendster is taking the world by storm.

Although it started only seven months ago, the Web-based service now boasts more than two million subscribers, and growing.

When I started about a month ago, I had eight friends. Now I have 30!

In Vanity Fair's November 2003 issue, Friendster even merited mention as "generating more buzz than an F-14 Tomcat fighter jet."

Many argue that it's only an online dating site with manners. In fact, the site has now spawned an anti-Friendster page called fiendster.com, whose aims are to meet new people to hate, through your fiends and their fiends; make new fiends; and help your fiends meet new enemies.

No doubt about it, imitation is the best form of flattery.

THE RETURN of the "little black dress"—Jennifer Aniston, Gwyneth Paltrow, Naomi Watts

Lust-have shoes—Diamante. Get ready for the holidays with shoes that spell, sexy, elegant and rich.

Diamante (a name to describe the shoes and not the brand) is making a fast comeback as the evening's perfect choice, taking over the reign of such metallic wonders as gold and silver.

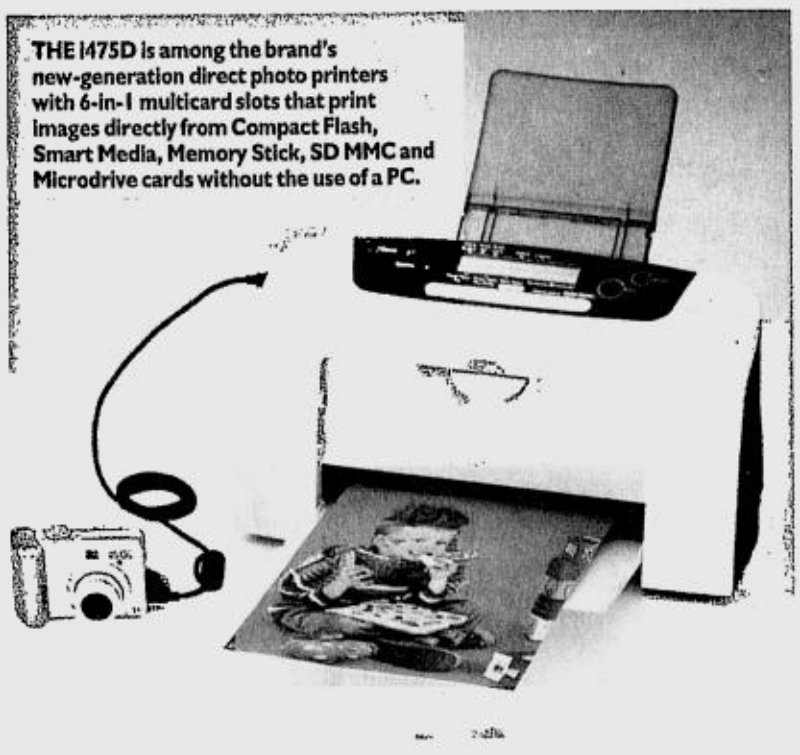
So if you are looking for a key look, this one is it!

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY IN
Sunday LIFE

The digital

Canon advances the digital lifestyle with new gadgets using the groundbreaking Pictbridge technology



THE I475D is among the brand's new-generation direct photo printers with 6-in-1 multicard slots that print images directly from Compact Flash, Smart Media, Memory Stick, SD MMC and Microdrive cards without the use of a PC.

By Cheche V. Moral

DIGITAL cameras are the new cellular phones.

While digicams have been with us for some time now, most people are only just beginning to take to the image-capturing gizmos the way they have taken to cell phones.

Lately, manufacturers have incorporated digital cameras into the new breed of cell phones. But for true-blue photography enthusiasts, budding photographers, and even ordinary people who want to capture every little milestone, there's no substitute for the real thing.

More and more people are now on the lookout for the latest in digital cameras. This picture is no different from when cell phones began to get popular.

While hardcore film users may refuse to junk their cameras just yet, a considerable number have already given it to the appeal of digital photography. How could they not when the digital phenomenon has shown the infinite possibilities of exploring their craft without cutting their love affair with conventional film cameras?

Digital photography has done away with film, the dark room and developing centers. (Ergo, it's also more environment-friendly, with the use of only ink and photo paper.)

Today, a new technology does away with the personal computer as part of the process of digital photography. That means you can edit your photo directly on the camera, hook it to the printer and voila! It's high-quality, long-lasting, lifelike photos minus the PC.

Pictbridge

In a tour of Canon's factory in Hanoi, Vietnam, the Japanese technology giant introduced to the Asian press the groundbreaking Pictbridge technology, which will enable consumers to print photos with a printer brand that's different from their camera. A piece of good news to Compact Flash, Smart Media, Memory Stick, SD, MMC or Microdrive memory card users, naturally.

The Pictbridge communication protocol was created by six member-manufacturers of the Japan-based Camera and Imaging Products Association of which Canon is included. It is hoped that with Pictbridge, the digital imaging market will be widened.

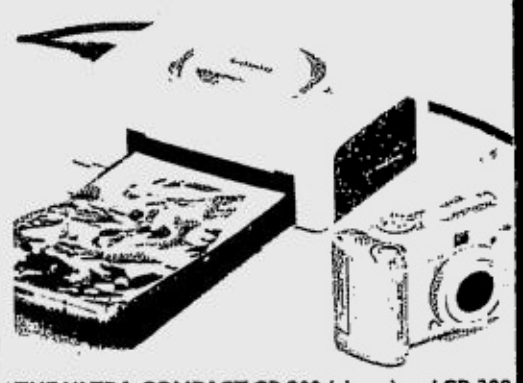
Canon is the first to introduce the new printers that comply with the Pictbridge standard. Five of these are bubble jet printers: the Canon i455, which is the most affordable; the i475D, which has a multicard slot for six different memory cards; the i560, for small home offices; the i865D, which is intended for high-volume business printing; and the printer for the pros, i905D.

More exciting, perhaps especially to hobbyists, are the very compact dye-sublimation printers. With Canon's two mobile portable printers, digicam users can now not only shoot but also print anywhere and anytime.

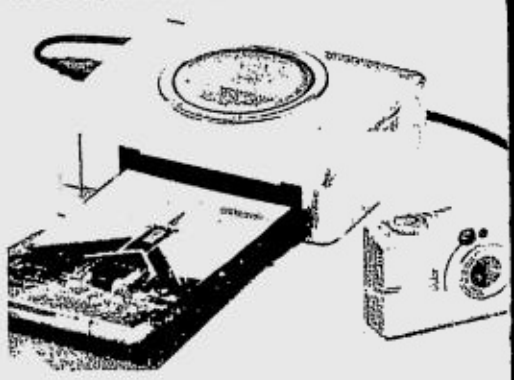
The CP-200 and CP-300 can print 3R, card, mini-sticker up to 4R-size photos. Both are light, weighing less than a kilogram and about the size of the Bible on your nightstand. The CP-300 even has free rechargeable batteries that make the unit serviceable practically anywhere.

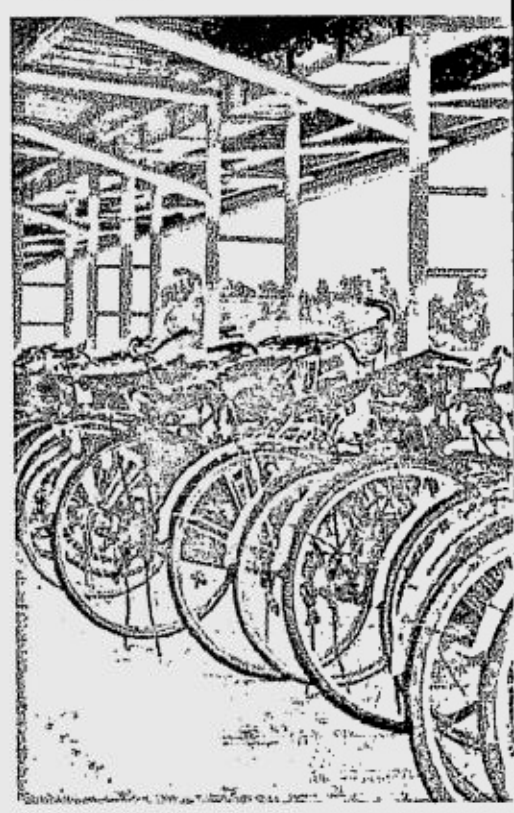
Pro quality

All Canon printers guarantee high-speed, fuss-free and professional-quality printing. It



THE ULTRA-COMPACT CP-200 (above) and CP-300 (below) dye-sublimation printers can churn out photo in a jiffy practically anywhere: in your car, at parties, o the beach, in the wild...





IT'S bicycles, not big fancy cars, that occupy the park Long Industrial Park in Hanoi. Labor is cheap in Vietn is unheard of, making it a favorable place for multinat are highly skilled, competitive and intelligent.

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An evening of inspirational performance art and lecture

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MONY OF PEOPLE AND MACHINES. Canon's ul Vietnamese workers deliver products according e Japanese company's exacting standards.

DIGITAL LEADER. Sachio Kageyama, Canon Vietnam Co. Ltd.'s general director, foresees a "bright future" for Vietnam owing to the country's "maturity."

is in the Hanoi plant that most of Canon's bubble jet printers are made.

The 200,000-sq-m factory in the Thang Long Industrial Park, about 30 minutes from the city, began operation last year. It produces 100,000 units a month, which are exported all over the world.

The company chose to build its factory in Hanoi because of the country's stability, said Sachio Kageyama, the Japanese general director of Canon Vietnam Co. Ltd. "The Vietnamese are intelligent, skillful and very competitive."

The Hanoi plant is one of the 18 factories of Canon outside Japan. It follows Japan's stringent quality standards, said Kageyama. In fact, of the over 1,300 employees in Hanoi, 28 are Japanese, who trained the local workers.

With a turnover of $87 million on the first half of 2003, Canon-Hanoi is now targeting a production output of 600,000 units a month, Kageyama said.

The Hanoi trip also saw the launch of Canon's new digital cameras: the Powershot A80 and the EOS 300D. The former is an affordable 4.0 megapixel model that boasts of a swivel LCD screen. It is capable of taking photos of up to A3 size without looking pixellated. A midrange model, A80 is perfect for those who are willing to forego size for more practical and enhanced features.

The EOS 300D is perhaps the most affordable digital (single-lens reflex) SLR camera in the market today. For pros and serious enthusiasts who are intimidated by the price of previous digital SLRs—or have doubts about shifting from analog SLR to digital—this 6.3 megapixel model from Canon could well be the breakthrough. Like its analog counterparts, the EOS 300D has interchangeable lenses with precisions and functions required by pros. It provides the user the benefit of instant viewing and editing of photos.

Significant mover

Two digital video camcorders, the MVX 3i and MVX 10i or Optura, were also launched. The latter is ultra-compact and lightweight, and intended for families and travelers. High-resolution MVX3i has creative features meant for budding filmmakers. Both models can capture still shots of up to 2.2 megapixels.

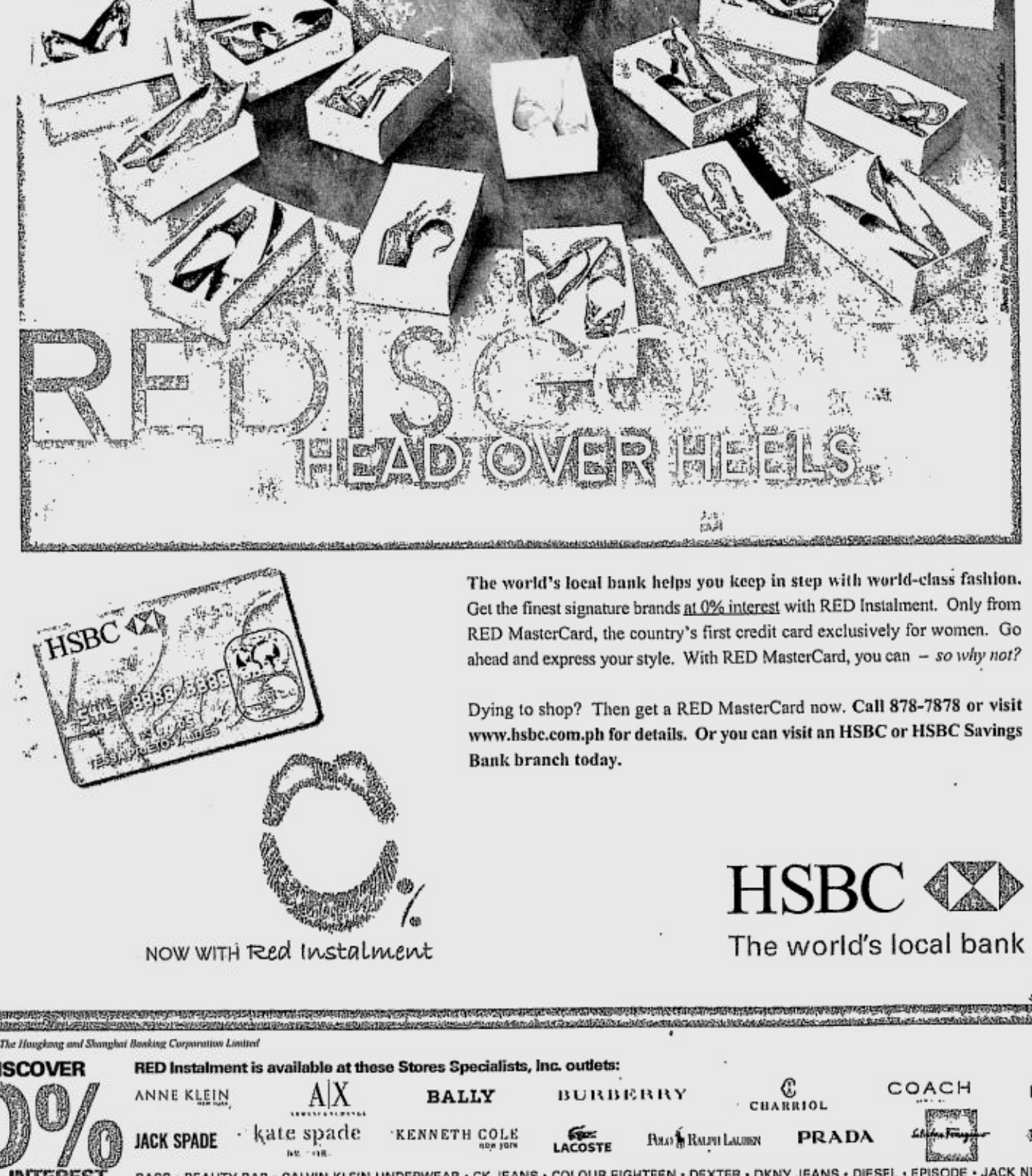
This new generation of Canon digital cameras and video camcorders are Pictbridge compliant. They are powered by Digic that guarantees stunning image quality, fast processing and longer-lasting batteries. The Easy-PhotoPrint Plus technology provides instant cosmetic surgery as it can eliminate red eyes, horrid wrinkles, blotches, lines, etc.

The Photo Noise reduction, meanwhile, gets rid of the tiny white dots or streaks often seen on printed images.

Canon is one of the most formidable names in the field of total imaging solution providers, with 70 years in photography alone and 20 years in inkjet printing. It is proud of its legacy as producer of traditional film cameras, but it is also a significant mover in the advancing digital lifestyle.

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

EOS 300D, the most affordable SLR digital camera in the market



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4620 Series of 2003.

ng spaces of Canon's factory in the sprawling Thang am, and, since it is under socialist rule, labor unrest ional companies to set up shop in. Plus, the locals

PHOTOS: CHECHE V. MORAL

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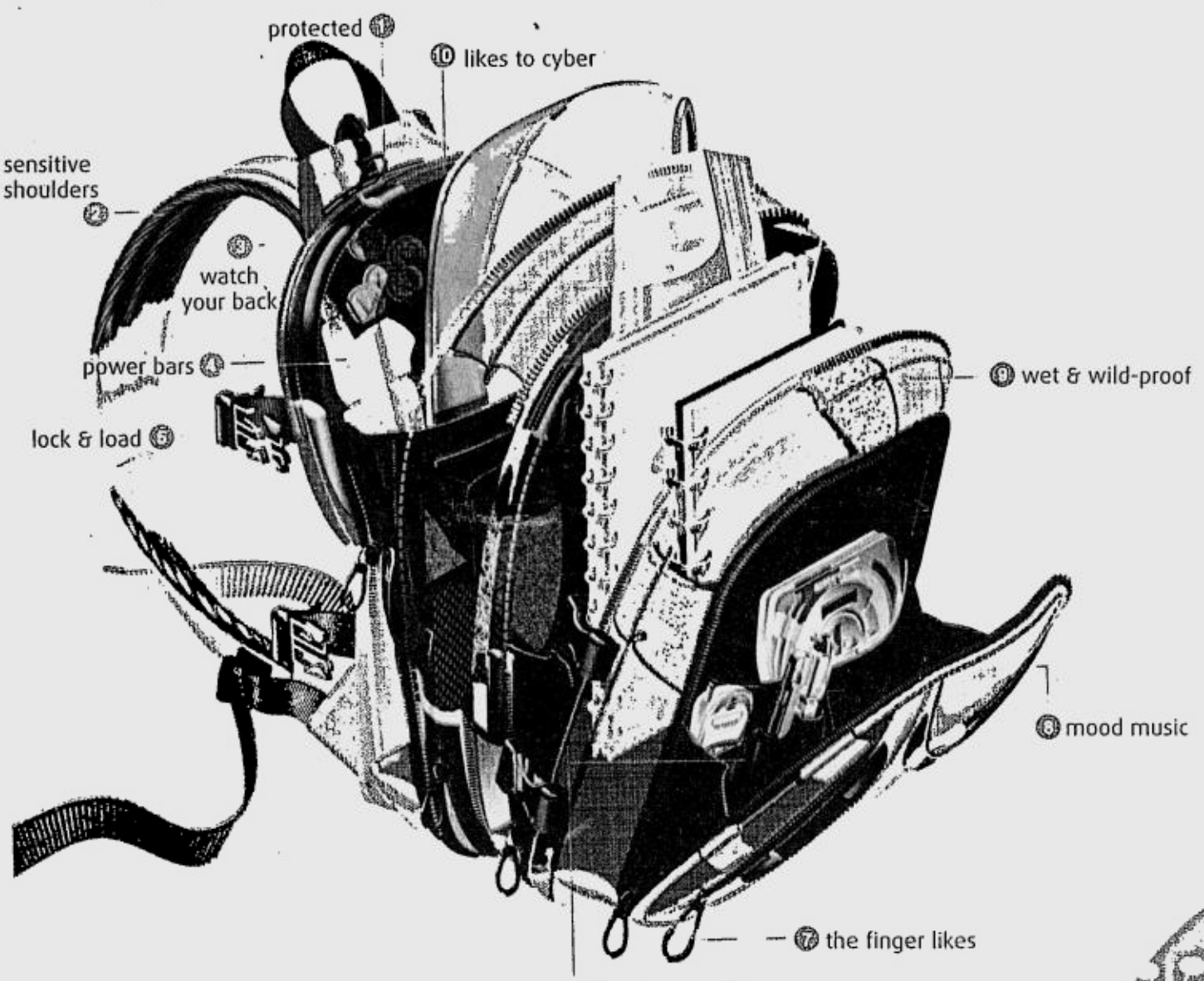

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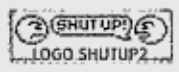
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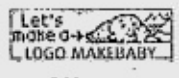
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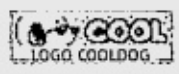
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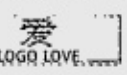
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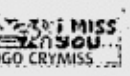
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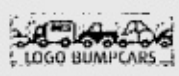
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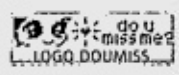
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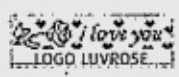
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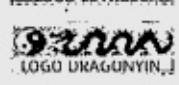
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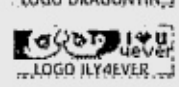
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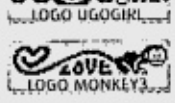
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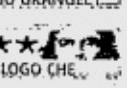
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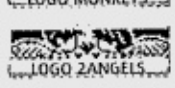
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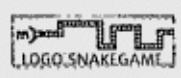
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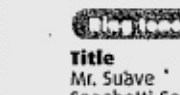
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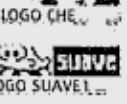
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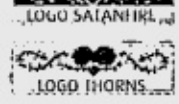
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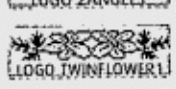
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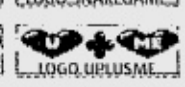
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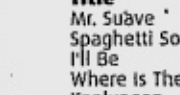
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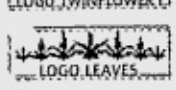
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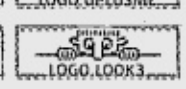
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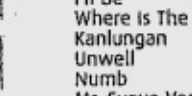
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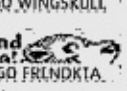
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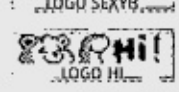
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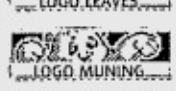
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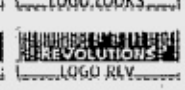
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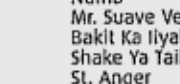
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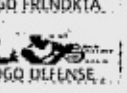
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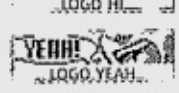
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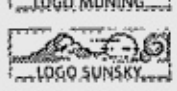
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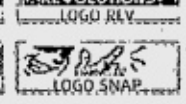
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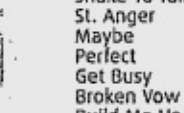

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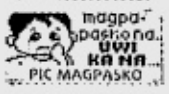
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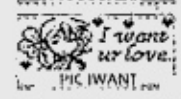
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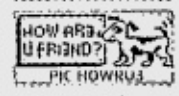
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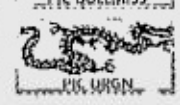
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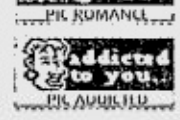

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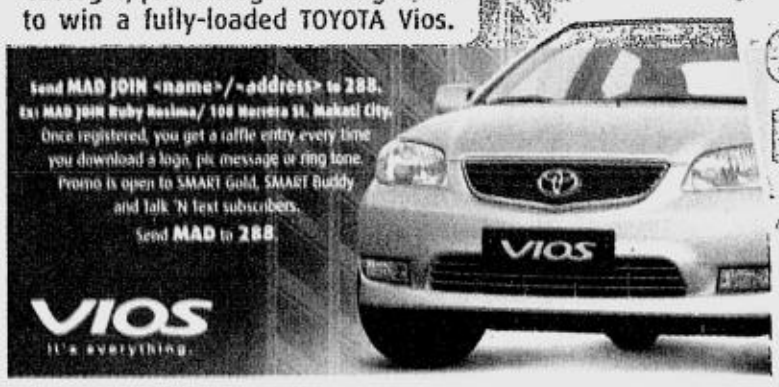

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Where Is The Love	*Black Eyed Peas*	**TONE WERISLUV**
Kanlungan	*Noel Cabangon*	**TONE KANLUNGAN**
Unwell	*Matchbox 20*	**TONE UNWELL**
Numb	*Linkin Park*	**TONE NUMB**
Mr. Suave Version 2	*Parokya ni Edgar*	**TONE MRSUAVE2**
Bakit Ka Ilyak	*Jeremiah*	**TONE BAKITIYAK**
Shake Ya Tailfeather	*Nelly And P. Diddy*	**TONE TAILF**
St. Anger	*Metallica*	**TONE ANGER**
Maybe	*Enrique Iglesias*	**TONE MAYBE**
Perfect	*True Faith*	**TONE PERFECT**
Get Busy	*Sean Paul*	**TONE GETBUSY**
Broken Vow	*Lara Fabian*	**TONE BROKEN**
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Ignition	*R. Kelly*	**TONE IGNI**
Heart Shaped Box	*Evanescence*	**TONE HEARTBOX**
I Want You	*Thalia & Fat Joe*	**TONE IWANTU**
Thoia Thoing	*R. Kelly*	**TONE THOIA**
Dahil Sa 'Yong Pag-Ibig	*Lani Misalucha*	**TONE DAHILSAYO**
Why Not	*Hilary Duff*	**TONE WHYNOT**
Can't Lose You	*F4*	**TONE CANTLOSE**
If You're Not The One	*Daniel Bedingfield*	**TONE IFYOURNOT**
In Love Ako Sa 'Yo	*Nyoy Volante*	**TONE INLUVAKO**
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FERNANDEZ-FERREOL NUPTIALS

A change of heart leads to a Prague wedding

Only close relatives and friends attended the small, intimate affair in this picturesque city

Text by Yvette Fernandez-Ferreol
Contributor
Photos by Isa Lorenzo

NEWLYWEDS in front of the astronomical clock

I ADMIT it.

I own the domain name whyihatewed-dings.com, spawned by an article I wrote called "Why I Hate Weddings" that was published here in the INQUIRER a couple of years back.

And yet this piece is about a wedding.

My own.

There I was early last year... a single thirtysomething independent-minded woman living in New York. Who cared about biological clocks! My female friends and I agreed we wouldn't settle for just any man fathering our children. My friends considered the possibility of artificial insemination. I was inclined toward adoption. So many unwanted children hoping to be loved.

And then I met Marc.

My mentor, Lorna Kalaw-Tirol, suggested that I did a series of profiles of Filipinos living in New York. The doctor. The nurse. The domestic helper.

Marc, I thought, embodied the Filipino IT professional. I had met him twice before, and we never said anything more than "hi."

I called him anyway.

After a few questions I decided he probably wasn't the typical Filipino IT professional I wanted to write about. But that didn't matter. We talked on the phone for over an hour that night. And a few nights later. And the next. And the next.

Paris proposal

A little over a year later, he got down on one knee in front of the illuminated Eiffel Tower in Paris. And I said "Yes!"

Both of us agreed to have a small, intimate wedding. We knew if we had it in Manila or New York, we would have to deal with long guest lists consisting of our extended families, friends and acquaintances from over three decades.

So we chose Prague, the magical city we explored together a few months earlier. There was a spot we loved most in the Old Town Square, in front of the astronomical clock and across the spires of the Tyne Cathedral. In the moonlight, it was the most enchanting sight in the world—straight out of a fairytale where princes and princesses lived happily ever after.

On the twelfth of September, just after four in the afternoon, at the tiny Church of St. Jilji, Fr. Jan Rajlich pronounced us Mr. and Mrs. Marcos Ferreol.

Thirty-nine of our closest relatives and friends attended and shared our joy. My sister Lara walked down the aisle as my maid of honor, followed by my parents, Ace and Dely Fernandez. At the altar, they presented me to the Ferreols, Marc and his widowed mother, Corazon Villena-Ferreol. Gil Quiniones stood beside Marc as best man.

I wore an off-the-rack dress my sisters Jackie and Lara helped me choose. It was one of three I tried on, and the color of champagne, because anything in white at bridal salons cost at least ten times more.

Something old

Marc wore a tux he bought a few years' back when he and his colleagues at JP Morgan attended a dinner hosted by Prince Albert of Monaco in Monte Carlo.

My mom and Lara had on dresses worn in Jackie's wedding almost seven years earlier. Luckily, Lara still fit into her bridesmaid dress, and my mom fit into my old maid-of-honor dress. Their copper color matched our invitations, and complemented the church's Baroque interiors.

My aunt, Penny Panlilio, arranged our bouquets. White roses and baby's breath bought at a flower stall that morning. The vendors didn't speak English, so Tita P mimed a bride walking down the aisle, as she hummed, "dun, dun, dudun...." She also did my makeup.

The weather was perfect, according to our New York-based photographer friend, Isa Lorenzo. My film critic brother Joey recorded everything on video.

A bus took our golden guests (the over 50) from the church to the reception. The rest of us walked through the cobblestone streets of the Old Town, across the Charles Bridge, to the reception at Kampa Park.

We toasted the city and our guests with a champagne cocktail on the terrace. A string quartet played a host of selections, including Marc's favorite, Bach's "Air on a G string, Orchestral Suite 3."

Dinner and dancing took place indoors. The walls and ceiling were a fiery red orange illuminated by chandeliers of naked lightbulbs with angel wings. Our five tables were named after our siblings who couldn't make it to the wedding: Francis, Nolet, Peachy, Pinky and Jackie.

Toasting the newlyweds

My Dad and Marc's mom started the toasts, followed by my best friend, Lisa Gokongwei-

GIRL/ H2

BUBBLES as we leave the church

MARC, the new addition to the Fernandez family

MARC and his mom wait for me to arrive at the church

A change of heart leads to a Prague wedding

AT THE Old Town Square

From page H1

Cheng. She and her husband Berck delayed their own honeymoon by two months so they could celebrate with us.

Gil toasted Marc, then Marc made his own, thanking everyone for celebrating with us.

Marc and I waltzed to "Try to Remember," then it was free-for-all, with our golden guests "rocking around the clock" and we dancing to songs from our high school days in the '80s. The song that stuck in everyone's mind that night: the extended version of "Awitin Mo, Isasayaw Ko" by VST and Company. The Czech DJ had never heard that one before, but he played it anyway, then went outside for a smoke. Our foreign guests happily danced to it, too.

The bus picked up our older guests just before 11 p.m., and we walked back across the bridge way after midnight. A bar was blasting our hometown song, "New York, New York" and we all sang in unison with the Sinatra recording.

We said good night to our friends in the Old Town Square, near the clock that read stars and the glimmering spires that never failed to enchant us—straight out of a fairytale where princes and princesses live happily ever after.

Fingers crossed that we will, too.

THE KISS

WITH Anita Lazatin, Penny Panlilio, Carmen Lazatin

THE YOUNG ones walk across the Charles Bridge

LISA Gokongwei and Berck Cheng

WITH Paula Kieffer and Gil Quiniones, Marc's best man

MY parents dancing to my mom's theme song, "Edelweiss"

ALL the guests in one photograph. Isa says that's a record for a Filipino wedding!

EILEEN and Lanny Batac

MARC'S aunts Luz Obias and Flor Alto

MAID of Honor Lara Fernandez

WITH my aunt, Mercedes Panlilio

MORE aunts: Noelle Blanco, Penny Panlilio, Cherrie Pie Lazatin

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Renovated wedding venue hosts fair

FERNWOOD Gardens will introduce the new cupola-style rain-free sky dome during the launching of its new function areas at the Inauguration Party and Wedding Fair, Nov. 22-23.

Located at 71 Cenacle Drive, Sanville Subdivision, Quezon City, Fernwood boasts of lush vegetation, swans from Holland, rare Japanese kois in mini lagoons, exotic birds, Canadian mallards, etc.

The wedding fair will give guests a chance to see the new and bigger Fernwood Gardens. Soon-to-wed couples can check out special discounts and bargains while families and individuals can just enjoy the new additions to the place.

The two-day fair will include a mass at the newly built and landscaped St. Francis of Assisi Chapel inside the compound, fashion photo shoots featuring professional models, pre-nuptial pictorials with professional photographers, horse-drawn carriage display, tasting of food prepared by Fernwood's accredited caterers, hourly raffle draw, musical shows, and others. Fair hours are 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Call 7565120/3658548 or visit www.fernwoodgarden.com. Admission is free.

FERNWOOD Gardens introduces the country's first see-through dome as an all-weather reception venue.

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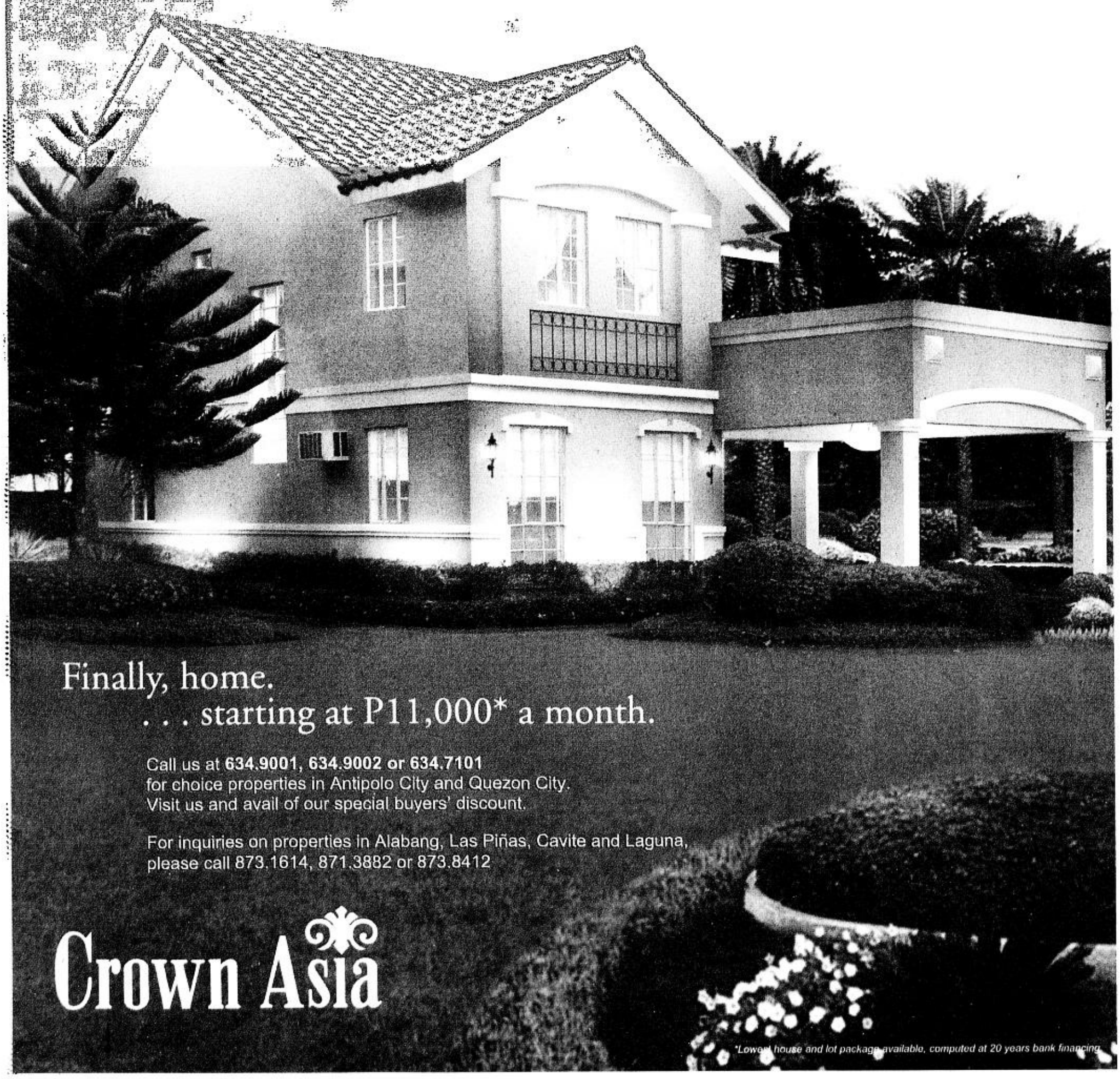
Maia Alta

Simply Grand.



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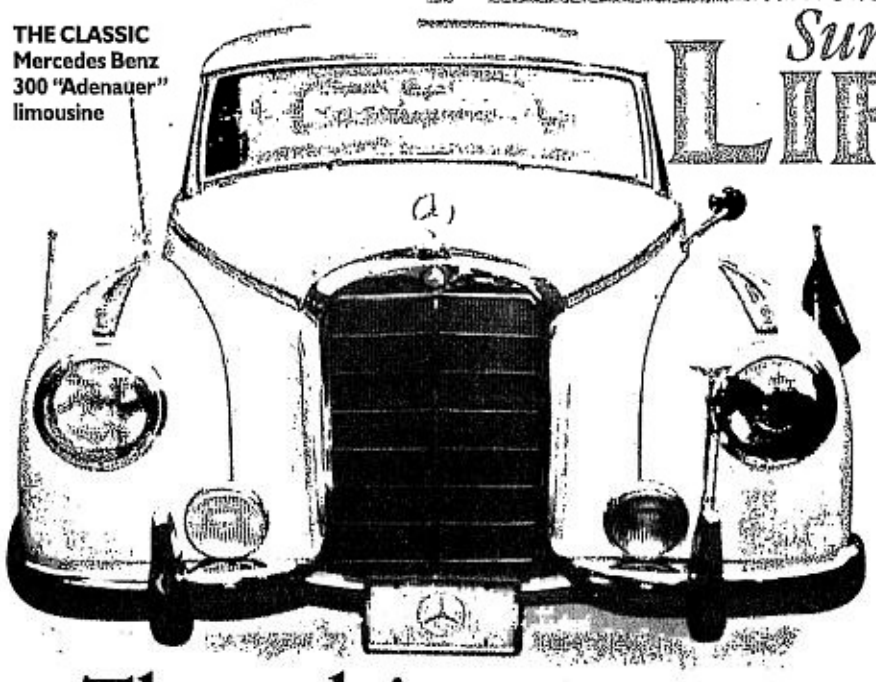


THE CLASSIC
Mercedes Benz
300 "Adenauer"
limousine

The ultimate bridal car

By Gibbs Cadiz

THE LIST of names that have been associated with the Mercedes Benz (MB) 300 "Adenauer" limousine reads like a gallery of the rich and famous: Queen Elizabeth II, King Baudoin of Belgium, Emperor Hirohito, Charles de Gaulle, Nikita Kruschev, John F. Kennedy, Dwight Eisenhower, Jawaharlal Nehru, Muhammad Ali, Yul Brynner, Clark Gable, Bing Crosby, Judy Garland, Gary Cooper, and even Ferdinand Marcos.

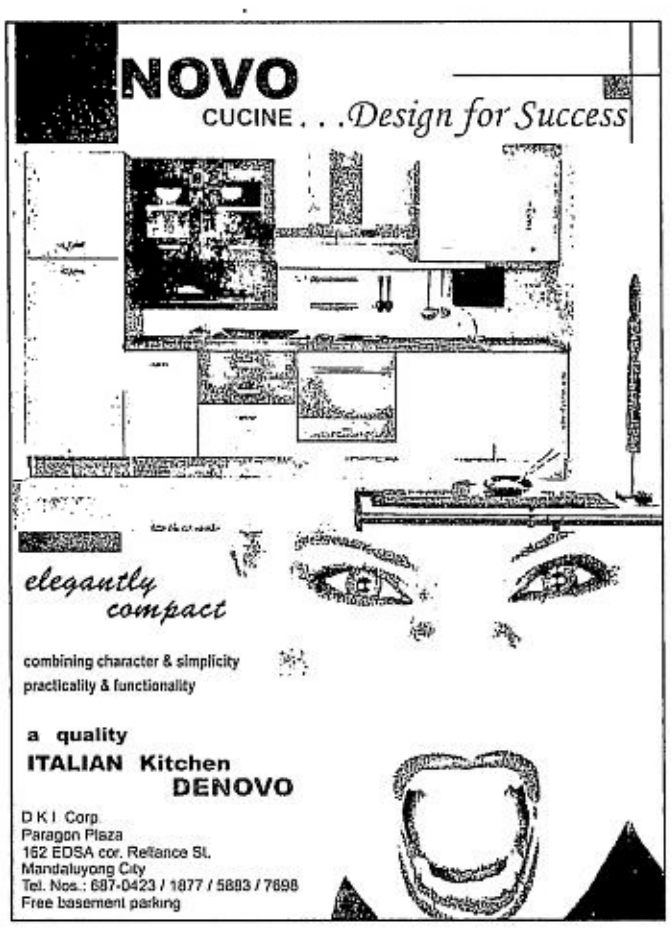
Clearly, this classic car is the epitome of Old World grandeur and elegance, fit only for the glitterati and royalty.

So what is it doing moonlighting as a bridal car in Manila?

"People like enduring memories of special days, like their wedding," says Greg Ching, owner of the only fully restored and running 1953 Adenauer limo in Asia. "This uniquely elegant car will ensure that."

The limo will make a grand appearance at the "Kasalan" bridal show in San Diego Garden, Inframuros, on Nov. 21-23. It's Ching's way of advertising the car as an aristocratic

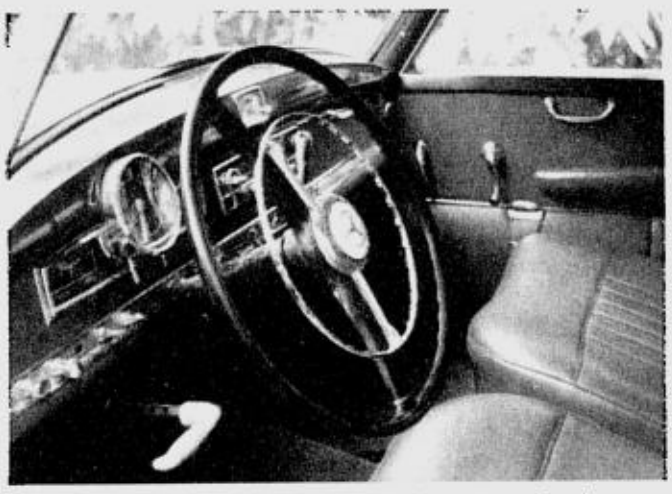
THE ULTIMATE/ I2



ONLY about a thousand MB Adenauers were built in the '50s, exclusively for heads of state, dignitaries, royalty and show-biz icons. Greg Ching's car is the only professionally restored and running Adenauer in Asia today.

The ultimate bridal car

Take a ride in the classic Mercedes Benz 'Adenauer' limo on your wedding day and be every inch a royal bride



THE INTERIORS were restored to original factory specifications, with re-upholstered seats in regal crimson and re-varnished wood paneling. All dashboard instruments are working, including an antique rewindable panel clock.

From page 11

alternative to the Toyotas and Hondas that often serve as bridal cars in these parts.

"The 50-year-old Adenauer limo has grandeur, exclusivity and history," says Ching. "You feel like royalty when you're inside it, so imagine riding in it on your wedding day."

Only about a thousand MB 300 Adenauers were built in the then divided Germany from 1951 to 1962. The name came from the car's pioneering association with Dr. Konrad Adenauer, the Chancellor of West Germany at the time, who often went about his functions riding in one of six MB 300s custom-made for the government.

The rest of the series were built exclusively for other heads of state, dignitaries, royalty, show biz icons and wealthy collectors.

Milestone

Ching says his MB Adenauer was originally owned by the family of the late Ambassador Yñares of Forbes Park. It was acquired by Ching's cousin who, after spending nearly a million pesos refurbishing it bit by bit, gave up three years ago because of the scarcity of spare parts.

Ching, a part-time real estate broker and a full-time car enthusiast, was only too happy to step in.

The '53 Adenauer represented a milestone of sorts for him. He had spent the last 25 years restoring and reselling over three dozens vintage and newer-model Benzes, but this one was not just a rare, prized find. It also carried a precious pedigree—the acknowledged flagship of the Daimler-Benz line and the favored vehicle of world nobility.

Ching would spend another million pesos, including three trips to the United States, to hunt for spare parts and restore the car to its original specifications. He trawled the Internet and touched base with other Adenauer owners to learn how to do an authentic restoration.

"I even patterned the material used for the upholstery, headliner and ceiling after the original clothing," he says.

In the beginning, of course, the exorbitant costs alarmed Ching's wife, Pinkie, a ticketing

NEWLYWEDS Martin and KC Kare cozy up in the Adenauer's luxurious and spacious back seat.

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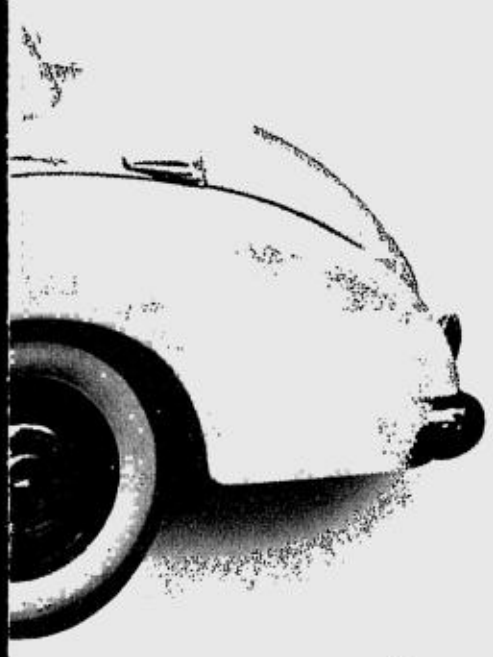

THE ADENAUER, here parked at the grounds of the Archbishop's Palace in Mandaluyong, evokes Old World grandeur and elegance.

manager at Northwest Airlines.

"But when she saw how the car was bit by bit becoming more grandiose and elegant again, she came around," says Ching. "In the end, she was the one stopping me from selling it."

With the family now decided to keep the car, Ching's next problem was maintenance.

"The car had to be used on a regular basis, or it would deteriorate," he explains.

That's how they came up with the idea of leasing it to marrying couples, which would also generate income to help pay for the car's upkeep.

One of a kind

Today, based on the records of a US-based international club composed of MB Adenauer owners, Ching's limo is the only one of its kind that's professionally restored and in top running condition in Asia.

"Worldwide," he says, "there are only a handful, perhaps less than a dozen, 1953 models restored and running."

Ching believes that gives the car a unique *gravitas*, a genteel-era quality that should appeal to any couple intent on making their wedding a cut above the usual display of modern matrimonial finery.

"It's a very imposing car. One groom who used it even said he felt like Pres. Fidel Castro while riding the car. Not that I understood why he chose Castro, of all people!" he says, laughing.

The car's interiors spell baronial comfort, with re-varnished original wood paneling, upgraded air-conditioning, and luxurious space at the back for the bride and her voluminous wedding gown.

Renting it costs P7,500 for the first three hours, and P1,500 for each succeeding hour. For out-of-town weddings, the maximum one-day rate is P29,500.

The prices include a full tank of gasoline, the services of a driver and a bouquet of flowers on the car's hood.

"Our rates are reasonable, as they are in-between other luxury bridal cars," explains Ching. "The newer regular-model Benzes, for example, go for about P5,000, while a stretch limo can go as high as P15,000."

For an added dash of class, the car's flagpole can carry a flag of the couple's own design or choosing—say, one that carries the bride and groom's initials and done in the wedding motif and colors.

Durable

"The legacy of the Adenauer is long and lasting," says Ching, "like a marriage should be."

Properly maintained, the car is extraordinary durable. It is made of a special kind of metal that hardly rusts, and runs on a stalwart Benz engine. The mileage is just a little over 57,000 miles.

It's not improbable, says its owner, that the limo will still be up and running 50 years or more from now.

"I've always loved the sight of grandparents holding hands in the malls. I'd love to see them using the car for their 50th wedding anniversary," says Ching.

But not just the oldies; the young are certainly welcome to try the Adenauer.

"If they get married this year using my car, and they last for 50 years, they can use the Adenauer again in 2053 for their golden wedding anniversary—for free!" he says.

Greg and Pinkie Ching may be reached at 7222599 or 0916-7026747. Visit www.buyandsellplus.com/bridalcar.php

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph

n.

Wyeth

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Breastmilk is the best for babies up to 2 years.
• The use of milk supplements must only be upon advice of a health professional.
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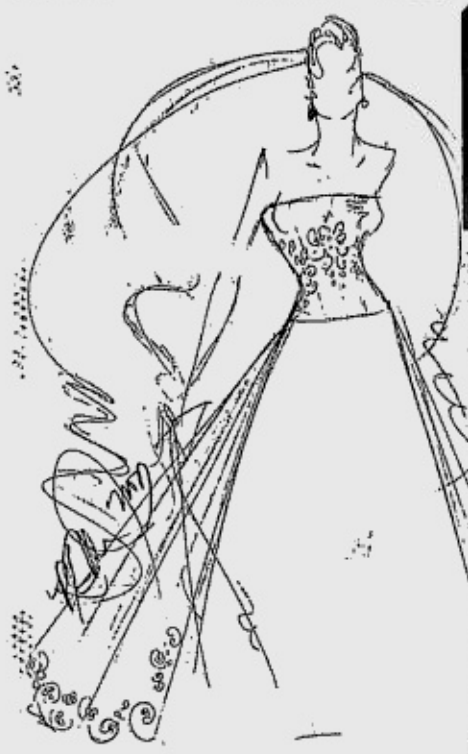


VILLAMOR-LACOSTE

Edwin Villamor, son of **Cesar** and **Lydia Villamor**, and **Marivic R. Lacoste**, daughter of **Gualberto Sr.** and **Vicitacion Lacoste**, exchanged vows Nov. 15 at the Fatima Parish, Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite. Reception followed at Island Cove Leisure Park, Kawit, Cavite. The bride wore a creation by **Paul Rex Mateo** of The Wedding Day, Imus, Cavite.

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

ODULIO-ESPINO

Reynaldo O.L. Odulio Jr., son of **Reynaldo Borja Odulio Sr.** and **Rosario Teresita Ortiz-Luis Odulio**, tied the knot with **Ethel Joyce J. Espino**, daughter of **Romeo Salvador Espino** and **Violeta Juachon Espino**, on Nov. 15 at the Dambana of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija.

Fr. **Noel Odulio San Vicente** officiated the ceremony, concelebrated by Msgr. **Michael Alexander E. Balaria**, Msgr. **Elmer I. Mangalinao**, Msgr. **Felix L. Hernandez**, Fr. **Francisco Odulio Algas Jr.**, Fr. **Victor N. Cruz** and Fr. **Joey B. Alto**.

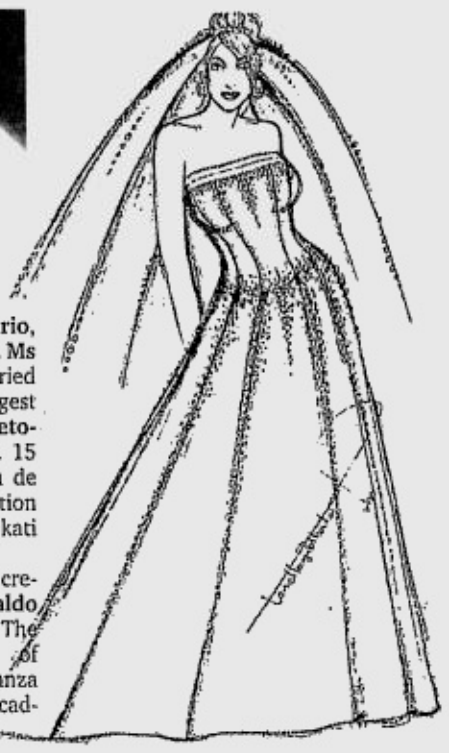
Gov. **Tomas N. Joson III**, Rep. **J.V. Bautista** and lawyer **Romeo T. Capulong** were among the couple's 12 principal sponsors.

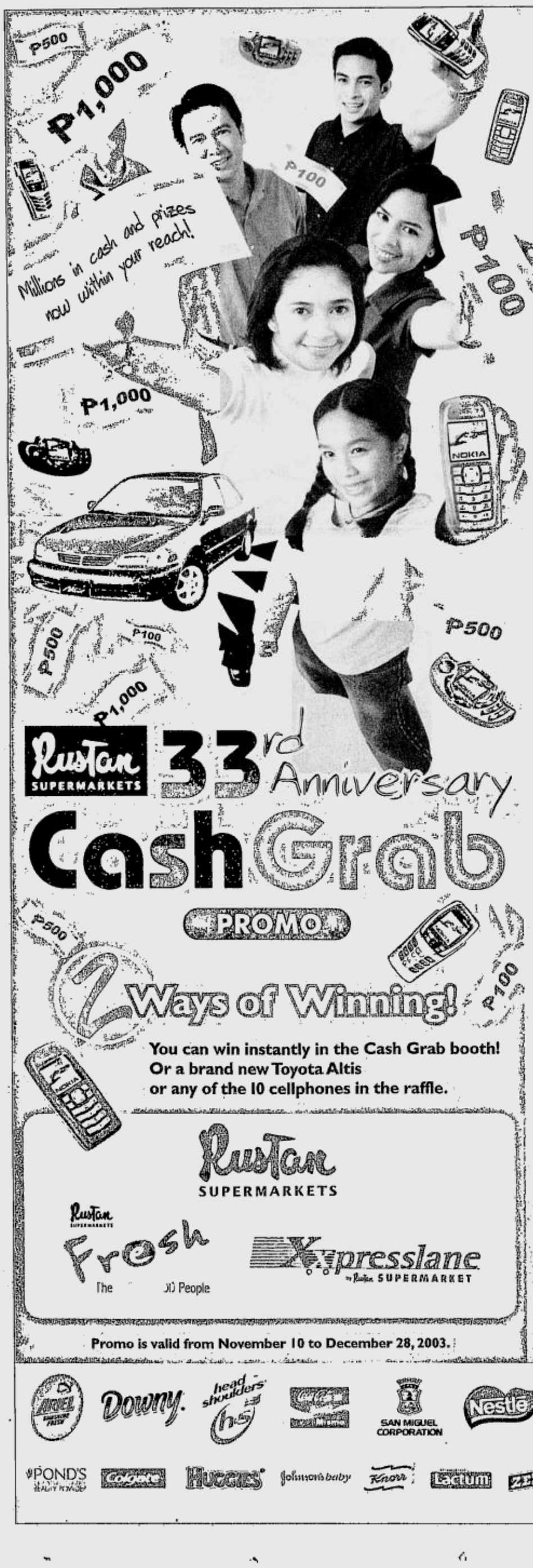
Reception followed at the Orchid Lake Gardens in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija.

MALAGAO-HERBOLARIO

Ivy Marie Herbolario, second child of Mr. and Ms **Herbolario, Jr.**, married **Randy Malagao**, youngest child of Mr. and Ms **Metodio Malagao**, on Nov. 15 at the Nuestra Señora de Gracia Parish. Reception followed at the Makati Palace Hotel.

The bride wore a creation by **Tonette Ubaldo** of Boutique Plantasy. The gown was made of monochromatic organza accentuated with cascading sugarbeads.





Promo Mechanics

1. Customers will be entitled to a Cash Grab card leaflet upon entry at any Rustan Supermarket. Each customer will get a chance to win a cash reward. The cash grab leaflets are given out for free.
2. Customers will be required to shop for a single or accumulated purchase of P3,000.00. Each purchase value will be validated on the Cash Grab leaflet by an authorized promo attendant using an authenticated security puncher. Purchases are not rounded off to the next hundred peso value.
3. Only leaflets with valid and authenticated security punches will be honored.
4. Leaflets are punched only on the day of purchase and at the branch or outlet where the purchase was made. Completely punched Cash Grab leaflets must be surrendered to an authorized personnel and stamped "claimed" prior to entry in the Cash Grab booth to prevent repeated usage.
5. Customers can play only on the day and at the branch where the Cash Grab leaflet was completely punched.
6. All lost or tampered leaflets shall be deemed disqualified. Customer must meet the required purchase requirement to be able to qualify again.
7. Once the leaflet is completely punched and surrendered, an authorized Rustan Supermarket personnel will assist the customer to the Cash Grab machine to play the game. A maximum of 10 times to play will be entitled to a customer per day should their purchase exceed PhP 30,000.00 in one day.
8. Customer is given thirty (30) seconds per entry to the air-blown Cash Grab machine to catch as many play money (in various denominations) as he/she can.
9. Following are the rules of "cash grab" game;
   a) Only 12 years old and above will be allowed to play inside the Cash Grab machine. A qualified customer may allow a representative to play for them.
   b) Customer must always keep their feet on the footprints during the allotted game time.
   c) They cannot grab any play money below the knees, nor hold/keep the play money in their pockets, clothing or against their chest.
   d) Customer cannot lean against the sides of the machine.
   e) Players may start only when the blower starts and must stop when the machine automatically stops after 30 seconds.
   f) After the time limit is over, only the play money accumulated in the Cash Bin will be valid for counting.
   g) The accumulated play money will be returned back to the machine, for the next customer to play.
   h) Non-compliance of the above rules will disqualify the customer from continuing to play and from winning.
10. Customer will win whatever total amount he/she can grab and accumulate in excess of PhP 3,000.00 instantly in the form of Rustan Supermarket Gift Cheques. However, the excess should not be less than PhP 100.00 otherwise, it will not be counted.
    Example:
    a. Winner grabbed PhP 3,120.00, he/she only wins PhP 120.00
    b. Winner grabbed PhP 4,000.00, he/she only wins PhP 1,000.00
    c. Winner grabbed PhP 3,025.00, he/she only gets a raffle coupon.
11. Winners and non-winners are qualified to join the raffle promo and are also qualified to join the game again and continue participating in the promotion.
12. Combination of cash grab leaflets to come up with the required PhP 3,000.00 worth of purchase will be allowed.
13. All cash prizes exceeding PhP 10,000.00 are tax-paid.
14. All employees of Rustan Supermarkets, Rustan's Fresh and Xxpresslanes, and its advertising agency, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity, are disqualified from joining the promotion.

Raffle Promo

1. Winning and non-winning customers in the game are qualified to join the raffle promotion.
2. All customers who played in the Cash Grab machine are entitled to one (1) raffle coupon. Every one completely punched Cash Grab leaflet is entitled to one raffle coupon.
3. Every P150 worth of purchase of sponsored product entitles the customer to an additional raffle coupon. Customers, however, will only be given an additional raffle coupon if they are able to make the required PhP3,000.00 purchase.
4. Customers should fill-out their name, address, telephone number and affix their signature on the raffle coupon and drop it off in the designated drop boxes.
5. At the end of the promotion, entries from all branches and outlets will be collected to raffle off the following prizes:
   a.) One (1) Toyota Altis Corolla 1.6J M/T
   b.) Ten (10) Nokia cellular phone units, as follows:
      1.) 5-6800 units
      2.) 3-3300 units
      3.) 2-3100 units
6. Car insurance and cellphone lines are not included in the prize.
7. Deadline to drop entries or raffle coupon is on December 28, 2003.
8. Raffle draw will be held on January 7, 2004, 3:00 pm at Rustan Supermarket's Cubao Branch, Araneta Center, Quezon City, and will be witnessed by a DTI Representative.
9. A customer can only win once. If his/her name is drawn more than once, he/she gets to win the higher-priced raffle prize.
10. Rustan Supermarket will pay the 20% tax for prizes exceeding PhP 10,000.00.
11. Winners will be notified by registered mail and must present a valid identification card upon claiming their prize at the following address:
    a. Metro Manila winners- Rustan Supermarket Cubao Branch, Araneta Center, Quezon City
    b. Cebu winners- Rustan Supermarket Cebu Branch, General Maxilom Avenue, Cebu City
12. For Cebu winners, customers will shoulder airfreight cost of vehicle.
13. Redemption period for the raffle prizes shall be within 60 days from the date of notification.
14. Prizes not claimed within 60 days shall be forfeited with prior approval of the DTI-NCR.
15. All employees of Rustan Supermarkets, Rustan's Fresh and Xxpresslanes and its advertising agency, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity, are disqualified from joining the promotion.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3311 Series of 2003

PUA-CHUA

Kendrick Pua, son of **Benjamin** and **Teresita Pua**, married **Chris Joan Chua**, daughter of **Cesar** and **Josefa Chua**, on Nov. 14 at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception (Manila Cathedral). Reception followed at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

The bride wore an empire-cut gown in imported duchess satin with a one-sided organza train designed by **Fanny Serrano**. A removable *panuelo* made of horsehair tulle with a bow at the back was added for accent. Serrano also did the clothes of the bridal entourage, as well as the groomsmen.

OREIRO-PEREZ

Audy C. Oreiro, son of **Efren Riogelon Oreiro Sr.** and **Lolita L. de la Cruz-Oreiro**, will exchange vows with **Liezel J. Perez**, daughter of **Cipriano Castillo Perez** and **Divina C. Javila-Perez**, on Dec. 14 at the Shrine of Saint Joseph the Patriarch Parish Church, San Jose, Batangas. Dinner will follow at Bluroze Farm, Lodlod, Lipa City. **Tessie Barredo** will do the bridal gown.

SANTOS-QUE

Dr. Regino Oliveros Santos, son of the late **Amado Santos Sr.** and **Gloria Oliveros vda. de Santos**, tied the knot with **Candice Navalyn Tan Que**, daughter of **Tomas Que Sr.** and **Carolyn Tan Que**, on Oct. 11 at the Central United Methodist Church, Manila. Reception at the Baluarte de San Diego was catered by **Al Navarro**.

The wedding gown was bought in West Virginia, United States.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

For feedback, text us at (0919) 880-3354 or (0916) 200-1160
or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Dressing up for a *wedding*

LOVELY in lilac. Cathy Santillan and mom Edwina Veloso in a lilac outfit with vine embroidery

NOIR mood. Cathy and daughter Kina in a black shantung top with lace insert and matching skirt. Edwina wears a sleeveless scoop-necked blouse and long skirt.

SM Boutique Square designer JM Goulbourn has been designing clothes for wedding guests for more than a decade now, and it is not surprising that she now has mothers and daughters for customers, as well as wedding sponsors and even guests.

Television personality Cathy Santillan, for example, is invited to many weddings, at times the same ones her mother Mrs. Edwina Veloso and her teenage daughter Kina are invited to.

As an oft-invited sponsor, "I usually abide with the bride's choice of color," says Cathy. "The design is always simple, along classic lines with a twist. The neckline could be uniquely stylish or the accent could be tastefully trendy."

As a guest, "I always opt to wear clothes made from fabrics that move with the body, are simply designed, and reflect my personality."

Cathy's mom, on the other hand, has played many roles in weddings—as a mother of the bride, as a sponsor, as a host and as a guest.

"During my daughters' weddings, I prefer wearing ecru clothes which are cut on the bias," she says. "As a wedding sponsor, I go for simple figure flattering silk chiffon gowns."

When she's hosting a wedding, "I go for an impeccably tailored pants outfit in Italian silk," and as a guest, "I would wear an intricately beaded ivory silk strapless gown with an overcoat."

Cathy's daughter Kina, meanwhile, tries to balance her youth with the formality of the affair.

"I like gowns with a young touch," says Kina, who has attended weddings both as a guest and a sponsor. "I prefer sleeveless or spaghetti dresses in flowing materials."

Cathy, Mrs. Veloso and Kina all swear by Jeannie Goulbourn's clothes at SM, which they say enhance their look.

They also share some tips on choosing the right wedding guest outfits from JM Goulbourn's racks at SM.

- Keep your outfit sleek and simple. Never steal the limelight from the bride.
- Avoid styles that add pounds, like puffy sleeves and voluminous skirts.
- Excessive beading will only weigh you down. Clean lines and minimalist details are most flattering.
- Use the right jewelry for the appropriate time.
- Dress your age. Wear your age with a lot of confidence. Mind the setting. Wear something light and fresh for an outdoor wedding, while be more covered up for an indoor wedding.

SM Goublourn's wedding collection is available at the SM Boutique Square.

FASHION talk. Cathy in black and Kina in fuchsia blouse and skirt

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October 19 – November 30

Take advantage of our Early Shoppers Dividend Checks (Gift Vouchers). For every P5,000 purchase, you get a dividend check worth P250 if you shop on or before November 30, 2003. Avoid the rush and get a reward!

Wine gift sets are available beginning October 19; food hampers starting November 16.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3151 Series of 2003

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Robinsons Starmills Pampanga (045-636-3546) • Robinsons Galleria East Wing (634-4234)
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Rustan Marketing Specialists, Inc. (RMSI) is the official franchisee of Marks & Spencer in the Philippines

DEBUTANTE Trina Martirez with model Brad Turvey

WITH her friends

DLSU freshman turns 18

KATRINA "Trina" Martirez celebrated her 18th birthday with family and friends at the Famous Bar and Restaurant, Greenbelt 3, Makati. If there was any better reason to spend the night celebrating, this was it, for this young lady has bloomed into a true beauty worthy of any celebration.

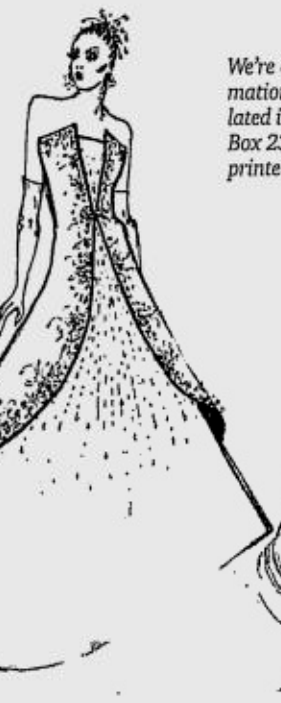
The debutante, the eldest child of Mr. and Ms Anastacio R. Martirez, is a freshman at the De La Salle University Taft.

Special guest was model Brad Turvey.

WITH Alyanna Martinez

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.



DY DEBUT

Rajany Vidallon Dy, eldest daughter of **Erol** and **Hermie Dy** of Imus, Cavite, celebrated her 18th birthday with a garden-inspired party on Nov. 8 at the Grand Ballroom of the Manila Diamond Hotel.

She wore two gowns designed by **Tito Franco.** The first gown was a princess cut embellished with sugar and cut beads and topped with a princess cape. The second gown was a simple two-piece gown of georgette and gazar satin top with cut beads all over the bodice.

The debutante is a student at the De La Salle University Health Science Campus.

MIANO DEBUT

Nory Dianne R. Miano, eldest daughter of **Noel** and **Norie Miano**, will celebrate her 18th birthday with a dinner-dance on Dec. 6 at Ballroom A of Traders Hotel Manila.

The University of the Philippines-Manila BA Behavioral Science sophomore will wear a ball gown in salmon by **Elizabeth Saddi. Enrique-Mel Lo** of Chelsi Chua Salon will do her hair and makeup.

COELI-SEE

Don Coeli, son of **Estrella vda. de Coeli**, and **Jennifer See**, daughter of **Henry** and **Mercy See**, were married Oct. 12 at the San Agustin Church in Intramuros, Manila. Reception followed at the Centennial Hall of Manila Hotel, Rizal Park, Manila.

JAO-LIM

George Jao, son of **Antonio** and **Violeta Jao**, married **Marichelle Lim**, daughter of **Ernesto** and **Antonia Lim**, on Oct. 26 at the San Agustin Church.

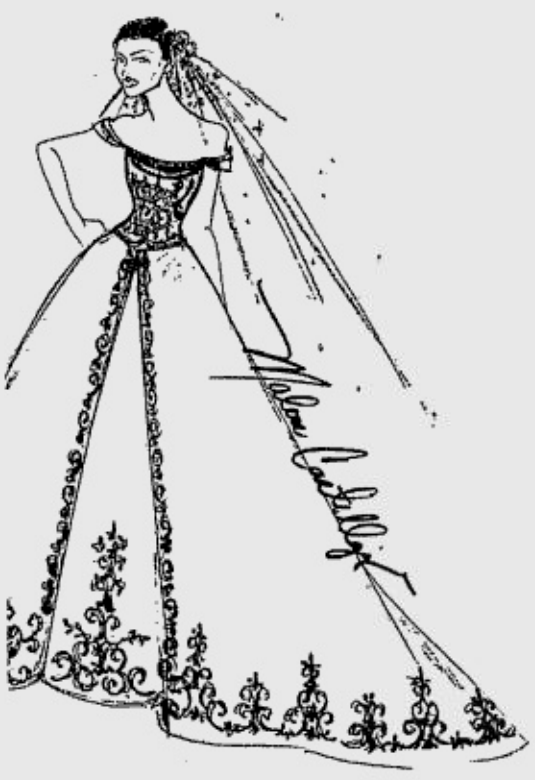
The bridal gown was made of white duchess satin bouffant skirt accented in the back with an overlapped draping, with intricate beads in a dainty pattern of flowers and ferns cascading down the cathedral train. It was designed by **Leonard Co.**

OCAMPO DEBUT

Melinda Carla E. Ocampo, a BS Commerce sophomore at St. Scholastica's College, celebrated her 18th birthday at the Manila Diamond Hotel Oct. 11. She is the daughter of **Leonardo** and **Dely Ocampo** of Southpoint Subdivision, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

DECANGCHON DEBUT

Jean Marie Lopez Decangchon, daughter of **Dr. Francis** and **Cynthia Decangchon**, who turned 18 on Nov. 10, celebrated with a party on Nov. 15 at the Manila Diamond Hotel, Roxas Boulevard.



ALON-JAVIER

Alvic Alon and **Diana Javier** were married recently at the San Agustin Church. Reception was held at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

The bride's fully embroidered beaded gown in duchess silk with Swarovski crystals and the dresses of her entourage were done by **Malou Castillejos** of C&C Creative Concepts.

VIRAY-FUENTES

Faye Marie Fuentes, daughter of **Ferdinand** and **Minda Mateo**, and **Michael Francis Viray**, son of **Artemio** and **Lydia de Venecia**, were married Oct. 28 at the Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City. Reception followed at the Garden Ballroom of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City. The newlyweds will live in Greenland Village, Pasig City after a honeymoon in Gold Coast, Australia.

Malate Church marks feast today

MALATE Church is 412 years old. The church was founded by the Augustinians in 1588 and dedicated to Our Lady of Remedies. According to historian Carlos Quirino, Malate was called "*maalat*" or salty by the natives who resided along the Manila Bay at the time the Spaniards arrived in Luzon in the 16th century.

Quirino wrote: "In 1624, the image of the Virgen de los Remedios was brought from Andalucia in Spain. This image was reported to be miraculous, and it made Malate a famous sanctuary where mothers presented their babies to the Virgin for cure of infantile ailments. The increase in population was slow: The number increased in 1761 to only 3,089, while an additional 2,087 was noted by 1898, at the time of the American occupation."

According to Fr. Pedro G. Galende, church historian of the Augustinians, "The inhabitants of Malate were either fishermen or office clerks who worked in Manila, while the women were skillful at the embroidery of *piña* fabrics."

By the end of the 17th century, "Malate had easily become the most aristocratic barrio of Manila where Spaniards and *mestizos* dwelt," Fray Gaspar de San Agustin wrote in his book "Conquista de las Islas Philipinas," printed in 1698.

The Columban Fathers came in 1929 and took over the church. They rebuilt it after it was destroyed during the Japanese occupation, fixing the roof, main altar, dome and transept. In 1978, the interior of the church was repainted and the bricks outside replaced.

In Quirino's book "Malate of Yesteryears," Father Galende expresses the view that the façade of the present church is a "good blending of Muslim and baroque architecture; the solid compact stone structure is enhanced by the cylindrical end buttresses, the few openings and the overall ornateness of the design. The three-story façade integrates with ingenuity the cylindrical end buttresses, hexagonal forms converted into belfries. The large opening of the lower level is balanced by the trefoil openings of the second and the semi-circular niche of the third. The triangular pediment has been left plain."

OUR Lady of Remedies, patroness of Malate

Another restoration was done recently in preparation for the fiesta of the Virgin of Remedies today. Termites have eaten up parts of the church, but still it stands resplendent. Bishop Soc Villegas will officiate the Fiesta Mass at 9 a.m., which will be concelebrated by the Columban Fathers.

To celebrate the stay of the Columban Fathers in Malate for 75 years, a commemorative book is being planned. Sponsors are welcome. Call 5232593 for inquiries.

For P200, one can be counted as a devotee of the Our Lady of Remedies.

I am a parishioner of the Malate Church. It seems that the Virgin brought me to Malate so I can serve her church as lector for the Mass.

Rosary for Life in Cebu

After launchings in Metro Manila, Baguio and Bulacan, the Rosary for Life will be launched in Cebu at 1:30 p.m. today at the Sacred Heart Function Hall, Sacred Heart Center. This was arranged by Rene Bullecer of Human Life International.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

At the launching at the Club Filipino on Nov. 11, Archbishop Paciano Aniceto of Pampanga officiated in the Mass as chair of the Episcopal Commission on Family Life.

Wyn Powers, who founded the Rosary for Life in the United States in 1992, was brought to the Philippines by Betty Go Roxas Chua, who arranged the symposium launching the praying of the 20 mysteries of the Holy Rosary for one hour each week to prevent abortion.

Nene Tan-Gatue has taken up the mission of "Spiritual Adoption." She printed 50,000 copies of the prayer that would save a fetus from abortion. Began by Archbishop Fulton Sheen in the US, the prayer campaign can save the life of a baby.

The prayer goes: "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion."

This is prayed daily for one year. Nene says saving one baby will be a nice gift to Jesus.

Those who wish to pledge praying the 20 mysteries of the Rosary for life can call the office of Betty Roxas Chua at 4003447; text Cherrie at 0917-8520668; or write to Rosary for Life, 996 Pablo Ocampo St., Malate, Manila.

For *estampita* prayers for spiritual adoption, call Nene Tan Gatue at 7255733. She can visit your parish to explain spiritual adoption and distribute the prayer *estampitas*.

Marian congress in Lipa

For the first time, the Archdiocese of Lipa will hold the Archdiocesan Marian Congress on Nov. 22, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at the Basilica of St. Martin de Tours in Taal, Batangas. The venue was chosen to mark the 400 years anniversary of the Our Lady of Caysasay enshrined in Taal.

Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, administrator of Lipa, will lead the congress. He will be installed Archbishop of Manila on Nov. 21 at the Manila Cathedral. Ecclesia Manila will do his vestments.

The congress program includes talks on Mary, presentation of the Mysteries of Light through reflections, sharing and choreography, a Harana kay Maria and a concelebrated Eucharistic celebration. Resource speakers and sharers are priests, youth and lay faithful with insightful and profound life experiences related to the mysteries of the Rosary. The Harana will feature choirs from the parishes in the archdiocese.

Marian calendar

Tony Montinola says the 2004 calendar of Our Lady of All Nations is now available. Call 8439015. There are also *estampita* prayers in different languages like Cebuano, Ilocano, Tagalog, etc.

25 years of 'Soledad'

San Roque Parish in Cavite City will mark the 25th anniversary of the canonical coronation of Nuestra Señora de Soledad de Porta Vaga on Nov. 17.

The Cofradia de Nuestra Señora de Soledad de Porta Vaga will be five years old on the same day. A Mass will be held at 6:30 a.m. in San Roque Church.

Gifts for Cribs

Well-known artist Impy Pilapil has designed hand-blown glass platters as gifts for Christmas. Every purchase of the P2,500 platter will go to Cribs Philippines, which care for abandoned babies and arranges foster care for them.

To order, call Liway Flores at 6815921 or fax Joel Loanzon at 6471329.

Miraculous Medal concert

The Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Shrine will host a concert of the Madrigal Singers on Nov. 21, 8 p.m., to mark the group's 40th anniversary.

On the Nov. 22-23 weekend, pilgrims can look forward to "family fun and food fair" at the church grounds. Happy feast day, Mama Mary.

Eucharistic Congress

The Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters of Quezon City (Pink Sisters) will hold its annual Eucharistic Congress on Nov. 30, 7 a.m.-4 p.m., at the St. Joseph's Convent (71 Hemady Ave., New Manila, QC).

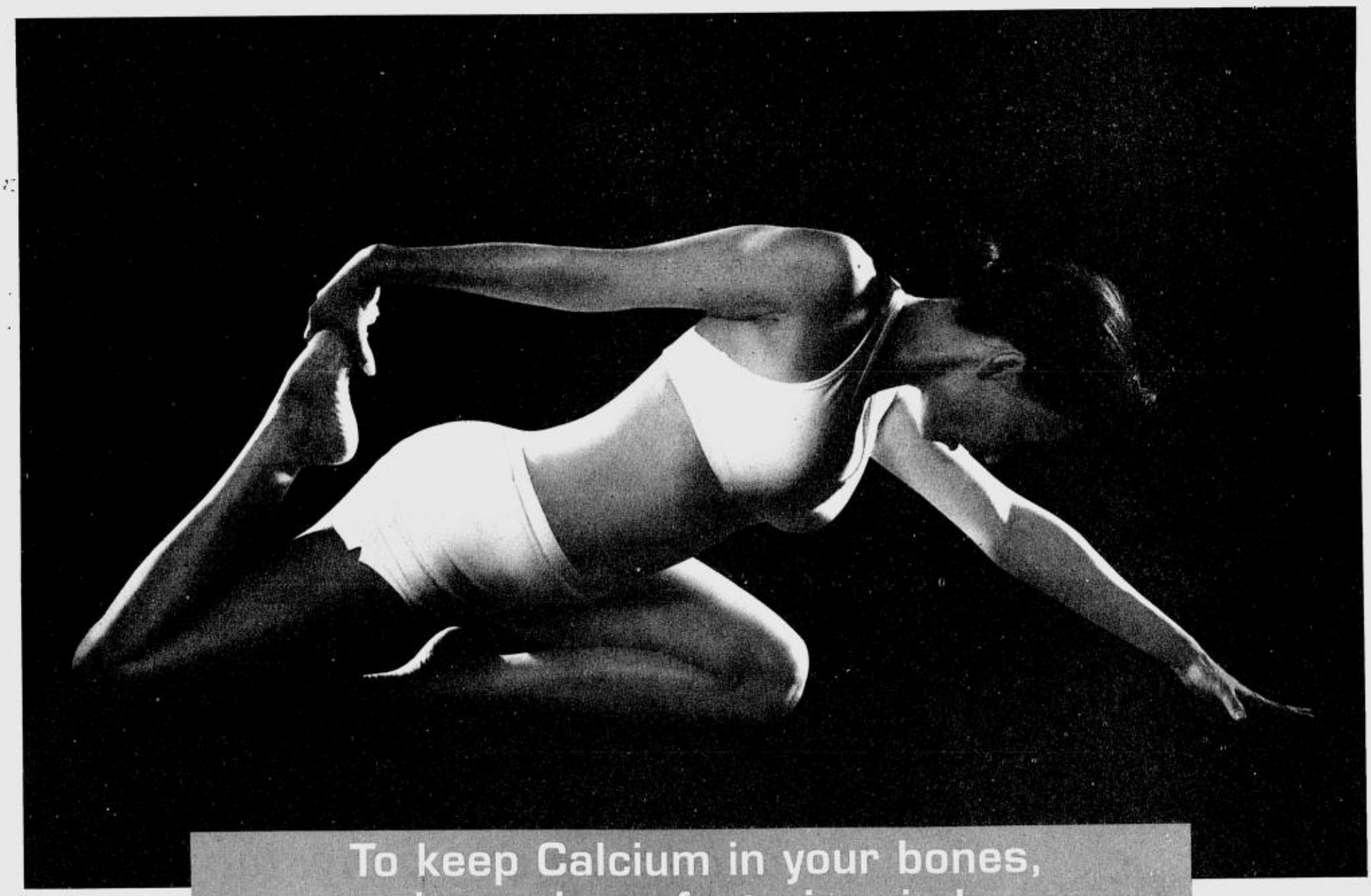
The theme of this year's event is "The Eucharist: The Life of the Church." Ambassador Tita de Villa, former ambassador to the Vatican and current president of The Mother Butler's Guild, will talk on Community of Disciples Around The Eucharist-Role of the Laity.

Sr. Mary Niere, OCD, extern sister of the Carmelite Monastery of Zamboanga who has given seminars on the teachings of St. Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross all over the country, will discuss the Healing Power of the Eucharist on the Family.

Msgr. Sabino A. Vengco Jr., founding president of Kadiwa sa Pagkapari Foundation Inc., host of the Catholic Sunday telecast "Ecclesia in Asia" on GMA-7, and who writes a column for the Manila Times, will talk about Mary, Woman of the Eucharist.

Lectures and meals are free of charge. Registration is free and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The event is sponsored by the Eucharistic League of Advisers, Quezon City Chapter. Call 0917-88956921, 0918-9016439 or 0917-2725177. E-mail eucharisticcongress@yahoo.com



Cebu's feverish preparations for 'Sleeping Beauty' ballet

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

Atlanta Ballet's Nicholas Pacana is feted to a homecoming birthday

AT NICK'S 50th birthday: Benjie Diola, Fe Sala Villarica, Nicholas Pacaña, Chinggay Utzurrum and Greg Aaron

NICHOLAS Pacaña and Greg Aaron took time out from their hectic work with the Festival Ballet Atlanta in Georgia, USA to come to the Philippines and mount the full-length "Little Mermaid" ballet in three hub cities of Mindanao—Davao, General Santos and Cagayan de Oro. Audiences loved it. In every city there was a different cast taken from the local talent pool.

"The Little Mermaid" had its world premiere in Cebu last year, and went on the road, or better perhaps, the sea, for performances in Dumaguete. The whole thing was an offshoot of Nick and Greg coming to Cebu in 2001 to perform during the 50th anniversary gala of Cebu's Ballet Center.

Nick is an alumnus of Ballet Center, where he first learned the intricacies of classic dance from **Fe Sala Villarica**. His rise to stardom began with a scholarship at Ballet Celeste in San Francisco. He then became the premier danseur at the Boston Ballet. Later, he joined the Atlanta Ballet to partner with **Maniya Barredo**.

Another reason for the homecoming was that Nick was turning 50, and there'd be a big celebration. Greg had started the preparations by remote control half way around the world. The result, thanks to **Grace Urbina** and other friends, was a fabulous party at the grand hall of Laguna Garden Café.

Nick was exuberant as ever, collecting praises for the magnificent way he looked and danced. "I no longer dance in tights," he said. But he added he continues to trip the light fantastic at every opportunity.

The party did not feature dancing, but lots of laughter and reminiscing.

The occasion was as good as any for Fe Villarica and **Vivina Yrastorza** to announce that Ballet Center and the Arts Council are presenting a full-length "Sleeping Beauty" in Cebu come March 2004. Rehearsals have already begun for this version that will use the original choreography of **Marius Petipa** to the music composed by **Tchaikovsky**.

"The Sleeping Beauty" was first presented in St. Petersburg more than 100 years ago before Tsar **Alexander III** and his court. The story, which sad to say, some people have forgotten, is taken from **Perrault**'s famous tale about a little princess' christening. A wicked fairy gatecrashes in the party, angry for not being invited and casts a spell at the princess, whereby when she becomes 15, she will prick her finger on a spinning wheel and die.

Good fairies step in to mitigate the spell, saying the princess not die, but sleep in her castle for 100 years until a dashing prince will awakens her with a kiss.

How the story is put to dance makes for one of the most delightful experiences a balletomane could ever wish to see on stage.

Trustees, members and friends of the Arts Council have been tapped to play the roles of lords and ladies in the palace scenes, and to dance the polonaise. Or is it the mazurka?

In the center of them all, playing the roles of the king and queen, are the Marriott's general manager, **Karl Hudson**, and Cebu's own queen of glamour, **Teresing Mendezona**.

Arts fever

Aside from talking about the feverish preparations for "Sleeping Beauty," Cebu is also talking about the first-ever Australian Film Festival held at the Ayala Center's Cinema 1, for which Australian Ambassador **Ruth Pearce** came to Cebu. **Jaime Chua** and **Alice Plaza** chaired the organizing committee.

Also coming to Cebu from the Australian Embassy were **Anne Whiteford, Leanne Blackley, Kenneth Truelsen, Allan Morrell** and **Rolando Enciong**, who is Australian Aid's program and information officer.

Honeybee Hubahib, country managed of Qantas Australian Airlines, came with **Janet Alfafara** and **Shelley Sanico** from SW International. Wings Travel's **Steve Alfafara** wasn't far behind, since he is Cebu's "Aussie Specialist," having arranged package tours for the locals.

Meanwhile, Cine Europa came to Cebu with a collection of excellent films from various countries of the European Union. Screenings were held for two days at SM City Cebu's Theater One .

The opening night was a glittering occasion attended by Germany's Ambassador **Herbert Jess**.

Event chairs **Marissa Fernan** and **Elvira Luym** welcomed the other VIPs: **Luc Vandebon**, deputy head of the European Delegation; **Gill Westaway**, director of the British Council; **Jeroen Vergeylen** from the Belgian Embassy; Consul **Monique Pachette** and **Martin Macalintal** from the Embassy of France; **Martin Brooke**, first secretary of the Italian Embassy; and **Marilou Pascual** from the Swedish Embassy.

Arts Council president **Petite Garcia** has announced that a festival of Japanese films is scheduled at Ayala Center's Cinema 1. The four films to be shown form a retrospective on **Takeshi Kitano**, who excels as writer, director and actor.

Two piano recitals are also set this month. Tomorrow, Cebu-based Austrian **Aima Labra-Makk** will play at 8 p.m. at SM 's Theater One. On Nov. 24, young Canadian pianist **Stephen Ham** will play at the grand ballroom of the City Sports Club.

A full-length production of "Romeo and Juliet" by Philippine Ballet Theater will be presented at SM's Theater One on Nov. 29.

Who was that who said Cebu is a cultural desert?

JAIME Chua, Australian Ambassador Ruth Pearce and Alice Plaza

SHELLEY Sanico, Qantas country manager Honeybee Hubahib, Janet Alfafara and Steve Alfafara

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Navigating an ocean of invites

THIS month has set a record high for social events and parties. My kids have been wondering why I was out almost every night. They are just beginning to figure out that daddy has a day job, while their flamboyant mommy works the night shift.

How does a Sea Princess sort through an ocean of invitations and prioritize functions from a "don't bother going" to "just show your face" to "definitely plan an outfit for this one"? And more importantly, how does one perform a multi-appearance in simultaneous events?

I think I have mastered society party psychology, being a social butterfly and a social drinker, too. Party attendance is highly subjective, usually based on who the host is.

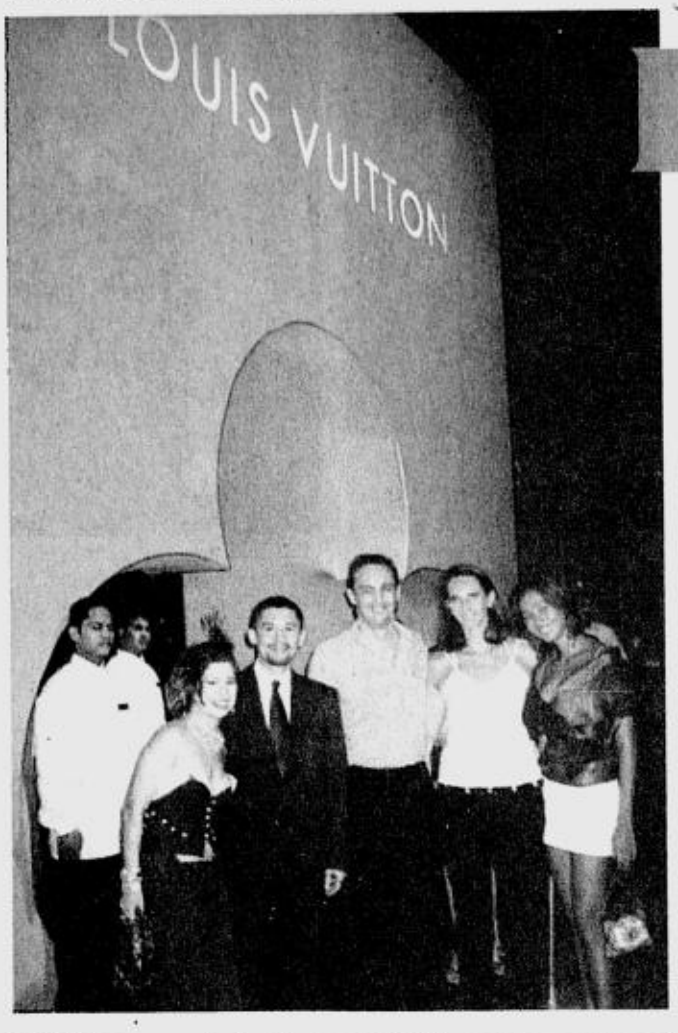
I attend parties if they are given by close friends or if I am personally invited. If it's a mailed invitation in a generic white envelope, even if emblazoned with a priority mail stamp, it's definitely straight to the trash for that invite. The trash list includes invitations with A-list names printed on the background (copycats of **Keren Pascual** who had the original concept). Close scrutiny of this so-called A-list usually reveals that your name is not on it, which is sort of an insult!

But that is not as bad as the worst invite faux pas of all—getting your name wrong, as

NAVIGATING/ K2

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Sea Princess classifies functions from 'don't bother going' to 'definitely plan an outfit'



LOUIS Vuitton grand entrance—Tessa and Dennis Valdes, BMW sales and marketing director Baudouin Denis and wife Tiphaine, and Claire Barberis

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MY VOTE for the best in red at the Red Cross Ball—Amparito Lhuillier and Marilou Pineda

TEACHER'S model couple Sander and Mons Tantoco in a floral *terno* by Rajo Laurel

YOUNG and in love. Audrey Tan and Rep. Miguel Zubiri

URBANITES in winning dance form. Ernie and Jeena Lopez in Rhett Eala

TAKING a bow. Toni Leviste in a Paul Cabral *terno* with Manolo Quezon III

MISS Universe beauty Margie Moran Floirendo and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza

FRIENDS for life. Monique Toda and Malu Fernandez

NATIONAL Security Adviser Roilo Golez and his lovely wife Natty

CHOOSING a bag. Karla Sibal and Lorraine Belmonte

Navigating an ocean of invites

From page K1

in "Mr. and Mrs. **Dennis Prieto**," which as one might imagine, my husband truly loves.

No cookie-cutter event

Lately though, I have been attending really fascinating functions that are quite imaginative, not the ordinary, cookie-cutter celebrations that you can sleepwalk through, the type that starts with a political wife doing the ribbon-cutting then a rubber chicken dinner and ending with a raffle featuring last year's non-moving inventories. Tacky, tacky, tacky.

Not so recent, truly well-done functions included the Red Cross Ball, where I had the chance to participate in a Rigodon de Honor, and the LV launch, which was probably the biggest store launch party Manila would ever have for the next few years.

The Red Cross Ball 2003 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel was indeed memorable, as it was the first *rigodon* Dennis and I attended. Originally, Dennis thought he had escaped having to actually dance with me (what is it with these lead-footed husbands?) when he foisted Philippine Tatler editor in chief **Anton San Diego** as his replacement. But his fate was sealed, thanks to SSI EVP **Anton Huang**, who was coerced into dance mode by his mother, Red Cross governor **Nedy Tantoco Huang**, then cornered Dennis and convinced him with the statement, "I won't dance if you don't." Now I know why generations of Tantocos are so successful—they're so persuasive!

AND we danced the night away...

RIGODON dancers Crickette and Donnie Tantoco, Tereret Liboro and Danny Dolor, Gov. Baby Ortiz and Ambassador Gion Gounet, Margie Floirendo and Mayor Atienza, Minnie Jentes and Gen. Sonny Yan, Jamby Madrigal Valade and Manny Padilla, Criselda Lontok and Ambassador Raul Roco, and Bujing Danao

His memory, my charm

After being delinquently absent at earlier rehearsals, we both did a crash course in the last few sessions and got the routine down to a tee. I just relied on Dennis' memory of the sequence while I provided the charm and grace for us both.

Being a natural in all forms of dance except ballet (my baby fat never disappeared and I haven't quite achieved that ballerina stature), I totally enjoyed the practice even if our very capable choreographer, **Bujin Danao**, was almost ready to give up on the younger set of dancers. I can still hear her shouting, "Children! Get in line!"

Rehearsals were just a riot with the real children hanging around, including the kids of Anton and **Nina Huang**, and **Ernie** and **Jeena Lopez**. Watching their folks marching to the *rigodon*'s fiesta carnival-sounding music must have been a riot. I was just glad to be in the younger set of dancers, even if the youngest in the bunch, **Audrey Tan**, the very pretty and likeable girlfriend of Rep. **Miguel Zubiri**, was closer to my son's age than mine.

The more professional-looking, "mature" dancers moved with composure and grace while us "children" danced a hip-hop version going in opposite directions. It wasn't until the final rehearsal at the Rizal Ballroom on the morning of the ball that all the participants got a better grip on the dance. Good thing we were just out there to have fun.

Elegant, red *ternos* were provided for us. I love charity balls with great giveaways! Selected top fashion designers were commissioned to do the gowns, and mine was executed by **Dennis Lustico**, a talented designer.

Bows and feathers

He made me a beautiful, stylized *terno*, a pleated base gown with an overlay and cute French and curly bows. And to add to the Sea Princess' signature impact, red ostrich feathers and hair accessories were created by **Patrick Rosas**.

To further outshine the rest of the dancers, Bulgari GM **Mario Katigbak** loaned me some beautiful Bulgari jewelry pieces. At first I was afraid I would not be noticed being the smallest... but then again, with my Bulgari rocks, I might be mistaken as PGMA gone wild!

I left my funky, faux gem rings as collateral with the Bulgari staff, who all said the bold, gold chain necklace matched with gold and diamond heart-shaped earrings fit me so well that Dennis should think seriously about my Christmas gift.

The actual dance, despite some minor mistakes (I shall not name the ones involved, since this was a charity event!), looked very regal. The guests enjoyed the performance with the striking red gowns and black tuxedos providing quite a juxtaposition of colors as the dancers moved across the floor. It went by so fast, I was sad we didn't prepare an encore.

Even if I didn't win one of the many major raffle prizes—the grand prize was a seven-night European cruise for two on the Queen Elizabeth 2—I went home with the happy memory of dancing with my special partner.

SPECIAL guests at LV launch. Inno Sotto, Cristina Bradner, guest of honor Kit Zobel, Margarita Delgado, Anton San Diego and Ed Delgado

PORTRAIT artist Lulu Coching-Rodriguez with pretty in aqua Fortune Ledesma

BEST-LOOKING couple Bea Valdes and Archie Rodriguez

DR. ELENITA Binay, lucky winner of an oil painting, with artist Ramon Diaz

FAB designer Rajo Laurel

PAINTER Betsy Westendorp de Brias (right) poses by her painting, won by Liza Ilarde

LV main guy Yves Carcelle

People are talking about...

Meanwhile, on to younger event mode. Who cannot stop talking about the Louis Vuitton store opening at the new Greenbelt 4?

What a launch that was! Since all LV stores are company-owned, this high-end shop indeed has the budget for events like this. And with our peso-dollar exchange rate, this was nothing compared to their functions abroad but still so impressive—enough to blow our minds and get half the guests in a drunken state, thanks to the bottomless Moet et Chandon champagne!

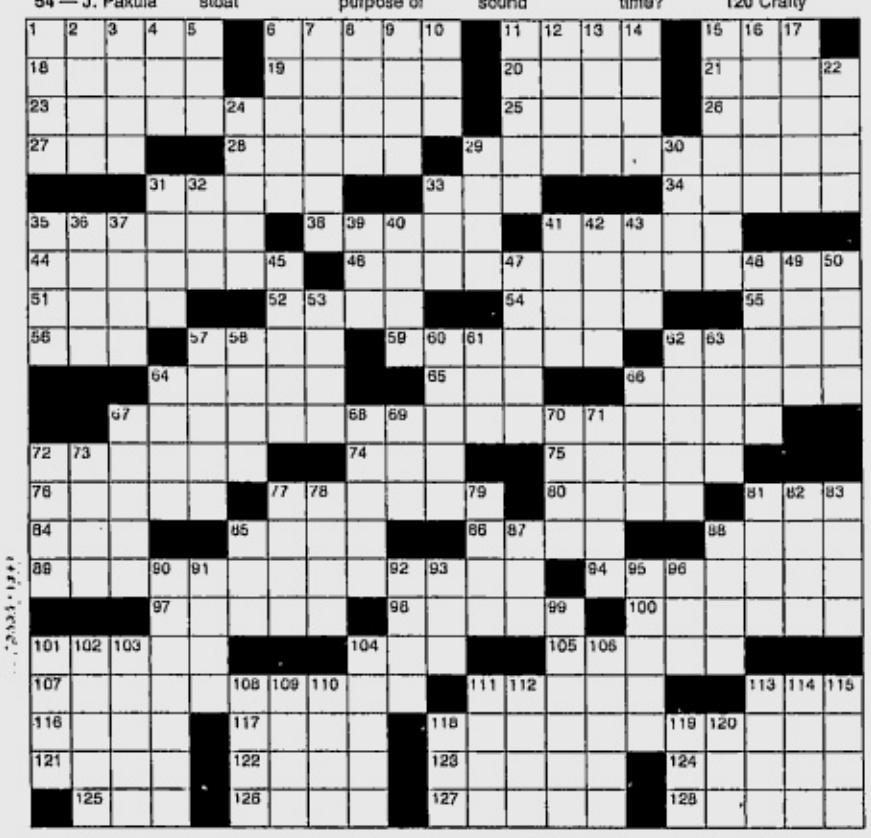
NAVIGATING/ K3

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone GRAB A PLATE!

ACROSS
1 "Carmen" composer
6 Extinct lemon?
11 Immense
15 In thing
18 Basketball venue
19 "— Bully" ('65 hit)
20 Have — in one's bonnet
21 Leave out
23 Excel, in a way
25 Trouba-dour's instrument
26 Puerto —
27 Bray beginning
28 Beethoven dedicatee
29 Become anxious
31 Motionless
33 Glowing
34 "The Creation" composer
35 Go over again
38 Art supporter?
41 Salmon serving
44 Sour
46 Blab
51 Kitchen kingpin
52 Kudrow of "Friends"
54 — J. Pakula
55 Jack of "Flower Drum Song"
56 "— Nidre"
57 Wild child
59 Kramden's crony
62 Boca —, FL
64 Old French bread?
65 Rock's Fleetwood —
66 Needle work
67 Earn a living
72 Patron
74 — order
75 "The Overcoat" author
76 Stunted
77 Henle's homeland
80 Mideastern gulf
81 Rte.
84 Barcelona bravo
85 Stare stupidly
86 Helper
88 Architect Saarinen
89 Live up to expectations
94 Speak haltingly
97 Romulus' twin
98 Vex
100 January stoat
101 That's no bull!
104 Two or more eras
105 Soap —
107 Act cautiously
111 Future officer
113 Money maven
116 Out of control
117 Oil of —
118 Botch
121 Monsieur Le Pew
122 Lingerie item
123 Dentist's weapon?
124 Bow or Barton
125 Cabernet color
126 Sentry's shout
127 Austen title start
128 Keyed up

DOWN
1 Chaucer's Wife of —
2 "Dies —"
3 "The Wizard of Oz" role
4 Compass pt.
5 Use a shuttle
6 Tom of "Adam's Rib"
7 Obedient
8 With the purpose of
9 Actress Sommer
10 Pipe cleaner?
11 Jeeves or Passe-partout
12 Border on
13 104 Down king
14 Rock hound?
15 Desert
16 "Jaws" setting
17 Cut into cubes
22 Wilder's "Our —"
24 Swiss miss?
29 Liquid measure
30 Jezebel's husband
31 Medieval menial
32 Zipper part
33 Wahine's wreath
35 Torment
36 Reverberate
37 Virginia —
39 Balaam's beast
40 Extend across
41 Normandy site
42 "More — I Can Say" ('80 hit)
43 Velvet finish
45 Trolley sound
47 Fasten a gate
48 Sean of "Lord of the Rings"
49 Time for a sandwich
50 Ballad or barcarole
53 Craving
57 Like salt water
58 Vociferate
60 — -3 fatty acid
61 Word with pack or rug
62 Scout's job
63 Court-martial candidate
64 Worry
66 Wise guy?
67 French psychologist
68 Brutes
69 Gullet
70 "Good gracious!"
71 Portends
72 Gator's cousin
73 Berg opera
77 Famed orca
78 "— 17" ('66 song)
79 Knitter's need
81 Sphere starter
82 St. Paul's architect
83 Knight time?
85 Tiffany treasure
87 Altar answer
88 Samms or Thompson
90 Traveled with Spock?
91 Protagonist
92 New Mexico resort
93 Wedge-worth or Radcliffe
95 Saw features
96 Part of ETA
99 Tyrolean tunes
101 Exchange
102 He keeps lions in line
103 Take the honey and run
104 Neighbor of Libya
106 Positive thinker
108 Snack
109 Poet Wilcox
110 Devers or Sheehy
111 Feel concern
112 Related
113 Bloke
114 Skin feature
115 At a distance
118 Hosp. personnel
119 Rhine whine
120 Crafty



answer on page E3

EVER radiant Lucy Torres with Bench king Ben Chan

ELEGANT couple Jun and Nancy Tambunting

FASHION designer sisters Frances Lim and Jeannie Goulbourn

RADIO magnate Bobet Vera and lovely wife Ruthy

THE BAKER and his pride. Johnlu Koa and elegant wife Marilou

STYLISH in black. Jacques Dupasquier and Leica Carpo

Navigating an ocean of invites

From page K2

After a rather somber ribbon-cutting ceremony led by my longtime good friend, **Kit Zobel**, who came dressed in LV from head to toe, the selected, by-invitation only guests were ushered into the high-ceiling elegant shop.

That evening, though, was just for browsing, so reservations were made. Shopaholics like me had to wait another day. Too bad, because quite a few of us ladies were hoping to get into **J.Lo** mode—looking tall and tan in a gigantic poster at the front door. Why can't we all be like that—great body with bags and shoes to match?

Of course, I arrived fashionably late, although correctly colored in my **Dennis Lustico** outfit done in LV browns. I noticed gorgeous male models all over the mall who were acting as live directional signs. Even though I was just a few meters away, I just had to ask directions from some of those boy toys.

After mingling and getting tipsy on champagne, we were shuttled in style in one of the BMW vehicles provided, to the New World Hotel's Cats disco. BMW marketing VP **Baudouin Denis** whispered that his company X5 was even part of the shuttle service and he would keep the orange LV stickers on the windows.

The old Cats Club was transformed just for one night into a hot club scene with great music and twin dancers. Special red LV-shaped furniture were flown in, and the place was decorated throughout with an artistic padded wall also in red. Everyone stayed until they couldn't drink any more champagne. And that is putting it mildly.

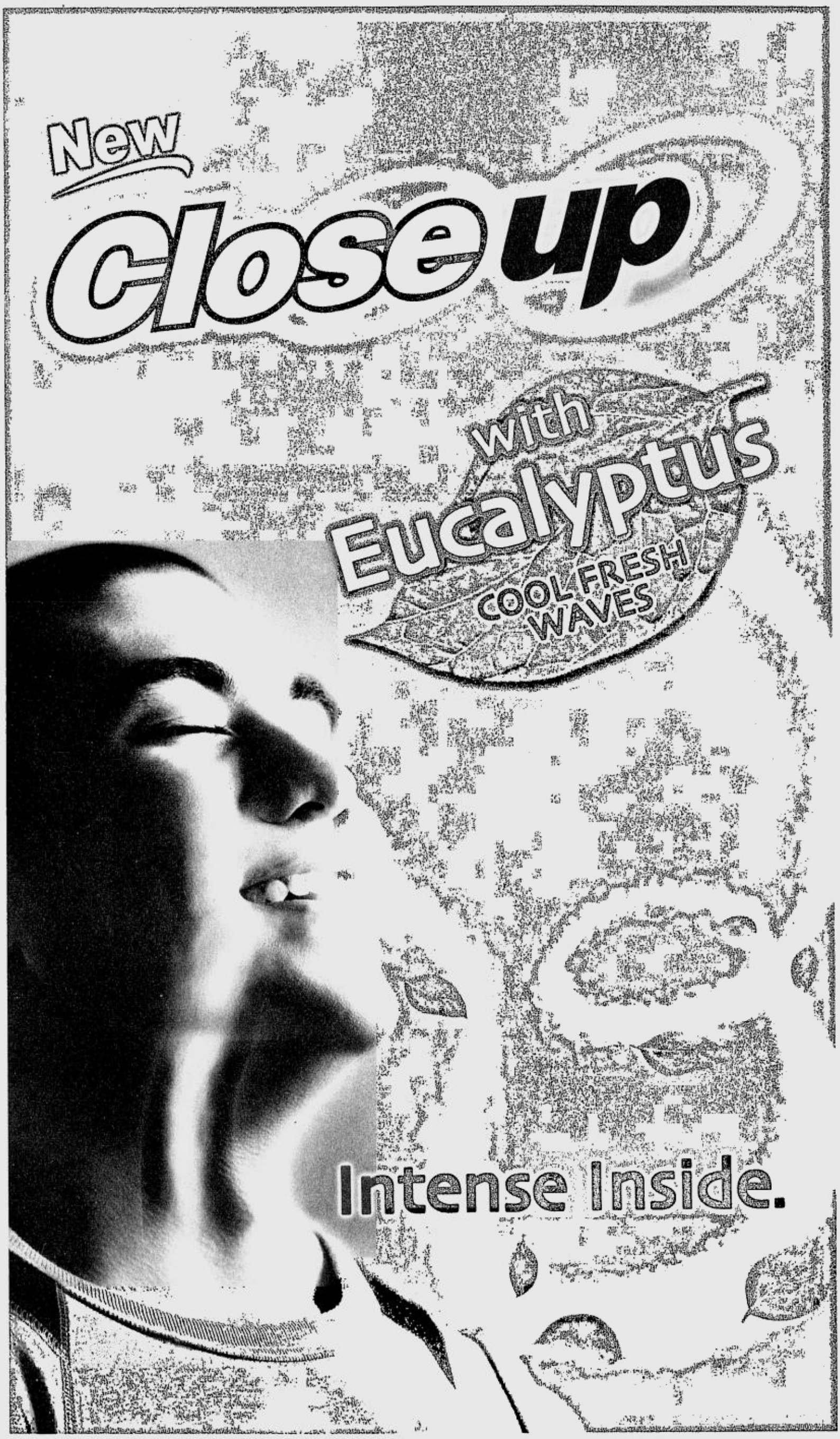
With all these events in just the first half of November, December is sure to be a quite month. But that is just wishful thinking!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

BABY Cruz makes her reservations for an LV bag.

BALL guests at the reception. Naynay Ventura, Anton Barretto and Leah Puyat

DR. Loi Ejercito and Justa Tantoco



Application for Ford Foundation's program ongoing

THE PHILIPPINE Social Science Council (PSSC) is now accepting applications from Filipinos interested in pursuing post-graduate studies in local and foreign universities anywhere in the world under the Ford Foundation's International Fellowships Program (IFP).

Last year, the initial batch of IFP scholars were sent to different universities abroad while others opted to study locally at the University of the Philippines and Asian Institute of Management. The scholars came from all over the country, each one hoping to contribute either to community development or share their gained knowledge with peers in their respective fields.

For the second round of IFP scholarships, priority will be given to individuals residing or working in 4th/5th class city or coming from a 4th/5th/6th class municipality. Members of ethnic and cultural minorities and those with physical disability are also encouraged to apply.

Applicants should meet the following criteria:

- Must be a resident of the Philippines or a Filipino citizen;
- Have at least three years of relevant work experience;
- Have a college degree with above-average performance;
- Actively involved in social and community work.

Get your application forms at the PSSC office at Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, QC. Call 9229630, 9262061 or e-mail ifp.phil@pssc.org.ph.

Provincial applicants can contact the office of the vice president of Academic Affairs, St. Louis University, Baguio City; The Director, Office for International Linkages, University of San Carlos, Cebu City; Office of the President, Notre Dame Business Resource Center Foundation Inc., Notre Dame of Dadiangas, General Santos City.

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MyAYALA COO TG Limcaoco (fifth from left) and GM Bon Moya (fourth from left) present the revolutionary M-Pass card to Sureseats team members (from left) Don Batino, Pom Figueroa, Michelle Meneses, marketing manager Joy Alampay, Monica David and Mark Salazar.

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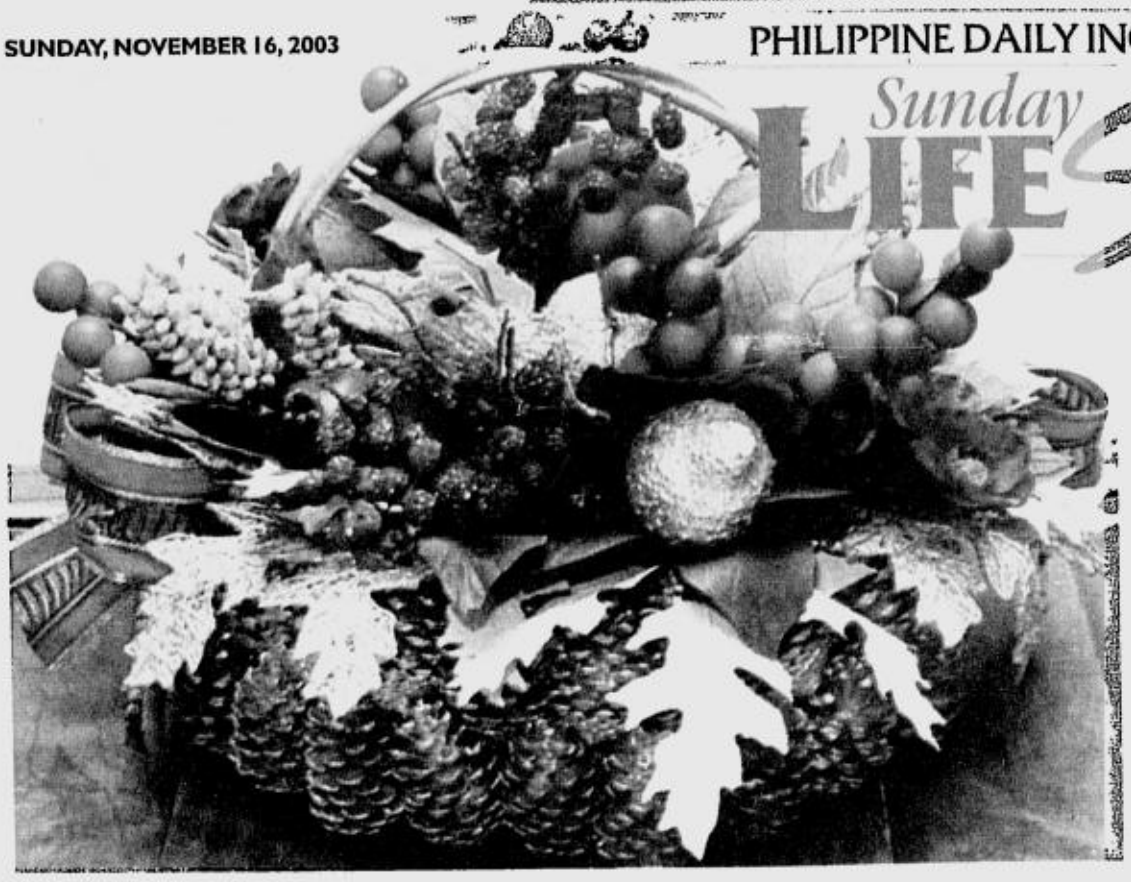


15" PINECONE basket arrangement

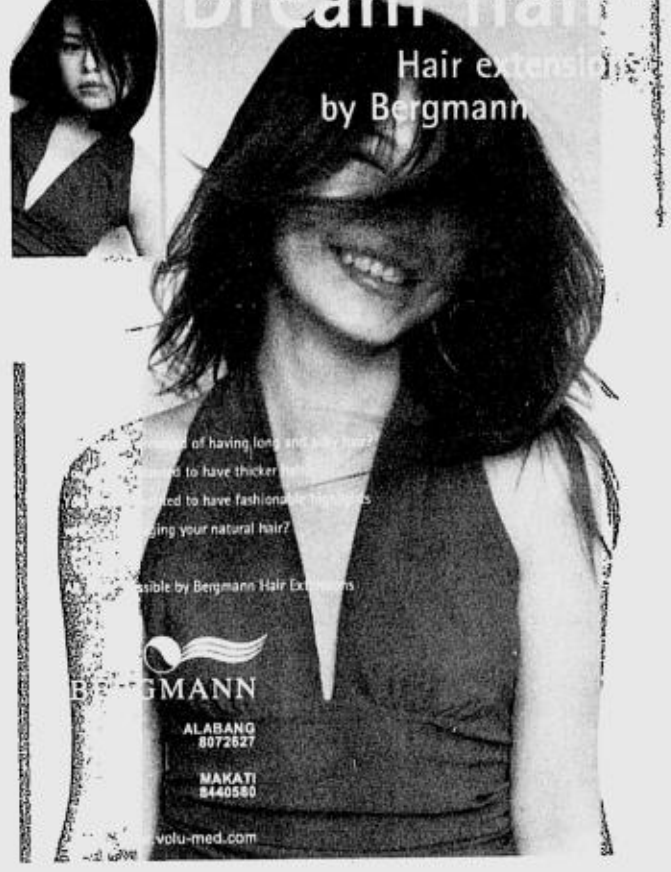
Sleighful of décor ideas

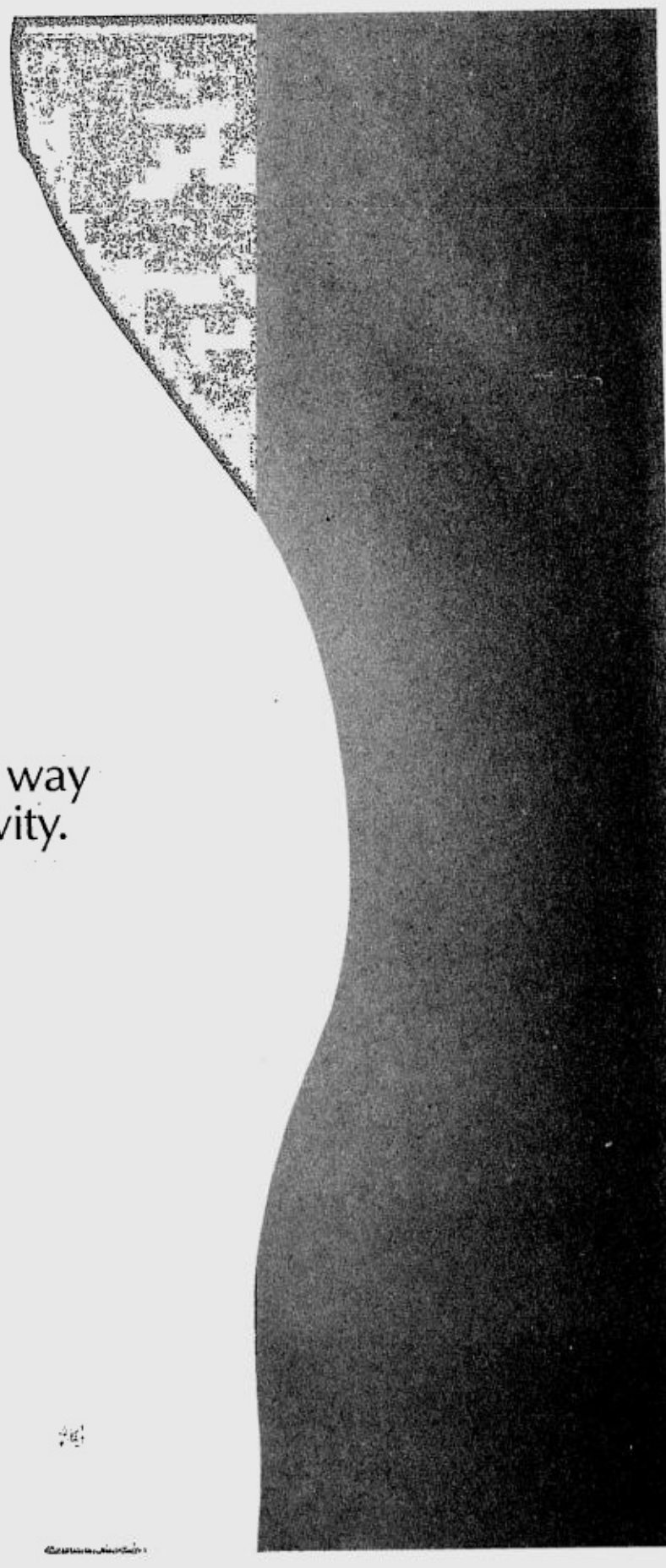
Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Roger Carpio

DURING Christmas, there's no better place to be than home. Tami Leung's career has taken her all over the globe. But no matter how far she travels, one thing is constant: "I'm always home for Christmas." A mother of two, Leung is adamant about making the day special for her family and friends.

It makes sense that Leung is drawn to Christmas. It is, above all, a holiday for families and friends, and "everything I do is about family and friends," she says.

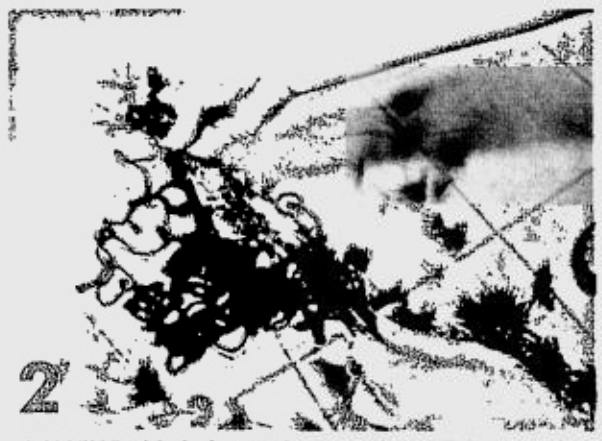
SLEIGH/ L4





There's a softer, gentler way
to fight the pull of gravity.

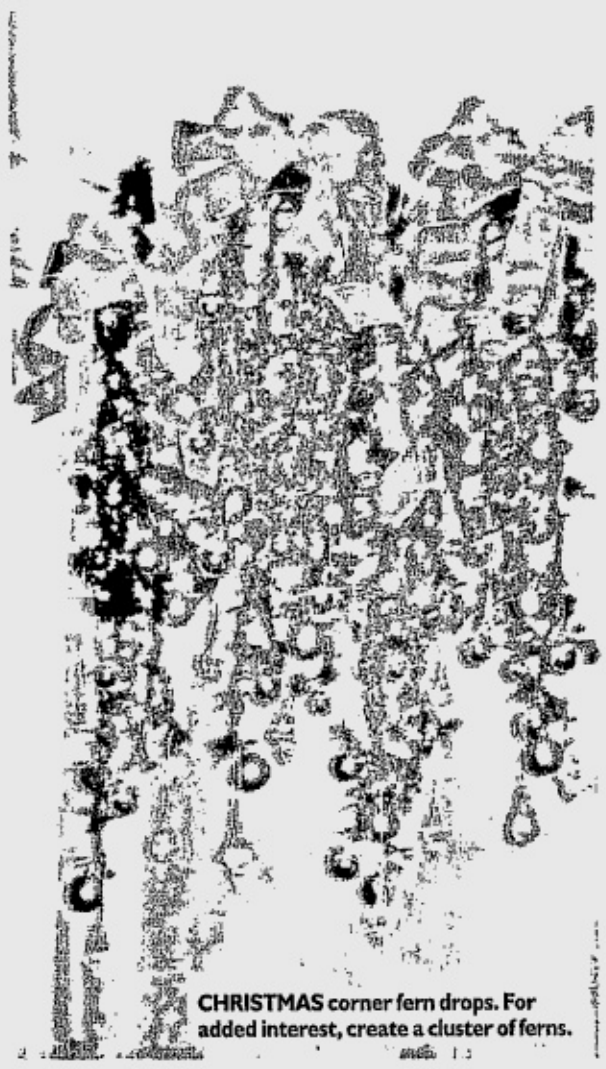
SPREAD your ferns on the floor or table.



STARTING with the longest fern, attach your lights from the top of the fern moving downwards, gently wrapping the lights around each frond.

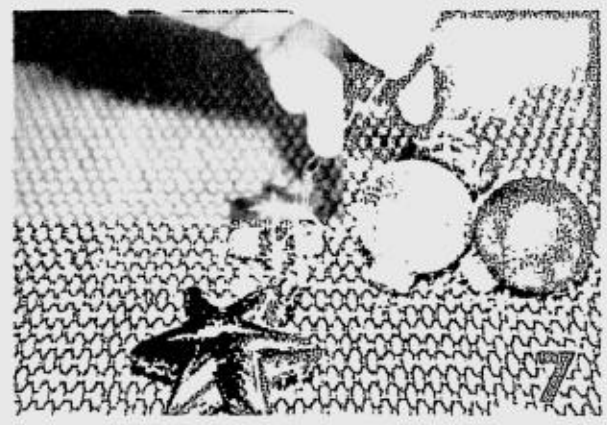
FASTEN attachments with a wire to keep them in place. When you reach the bottom, fold the lights then move upward till you reach the next frond. Do the same with the rest of the frond.

MAKE several gold and re



CHRISTMAS corner fern drops. For added interest, create a cluster of ferns.

TO attract attention, affix both red and gold ribbons and secure with garterized thread.



ATTACH a three-inch wire to each of your trimmings.

TIE them onto the fern, le the decor so they drop slig

Trim your ceilings, too

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Egay Montano

FEELING creative this Christmas? Why not spruce up your ceiling with your own bright and beautiful trimmings?

"The nicest holiday decorations are the ones you make yourself," says Letty Ruiz, a home decorator and craft speaker of the Decorative Arts Guild of the Philippines. "And, you can decorate your home [inexpensively]."

Ruiz demonstrates a unique way to decorate the corners of your home. "Corner fern drop is an ideal way to brighten up this special area of your home. Although you can make use of garlands or swags, the effect is not as fluid, graceful and elegant as when you use ferns," says Ruiz (tel. 9530782).

You can hang several of the artificial ferns from the ceiling, embellishing each with a variety of glass balls, crystals and bows. A length of cool-burning Christmas lights can be coiled around it for a lacy look.

STEP BY STEP

To begin the project, first you will have to choose the color scheme and theme or style. Then you can collect the materials to execute the theme.

Choosing a color scheme will make all of your decorating decisions easier. You can go all red for your balls and ribbons, a mix of red and gold or multi-color.

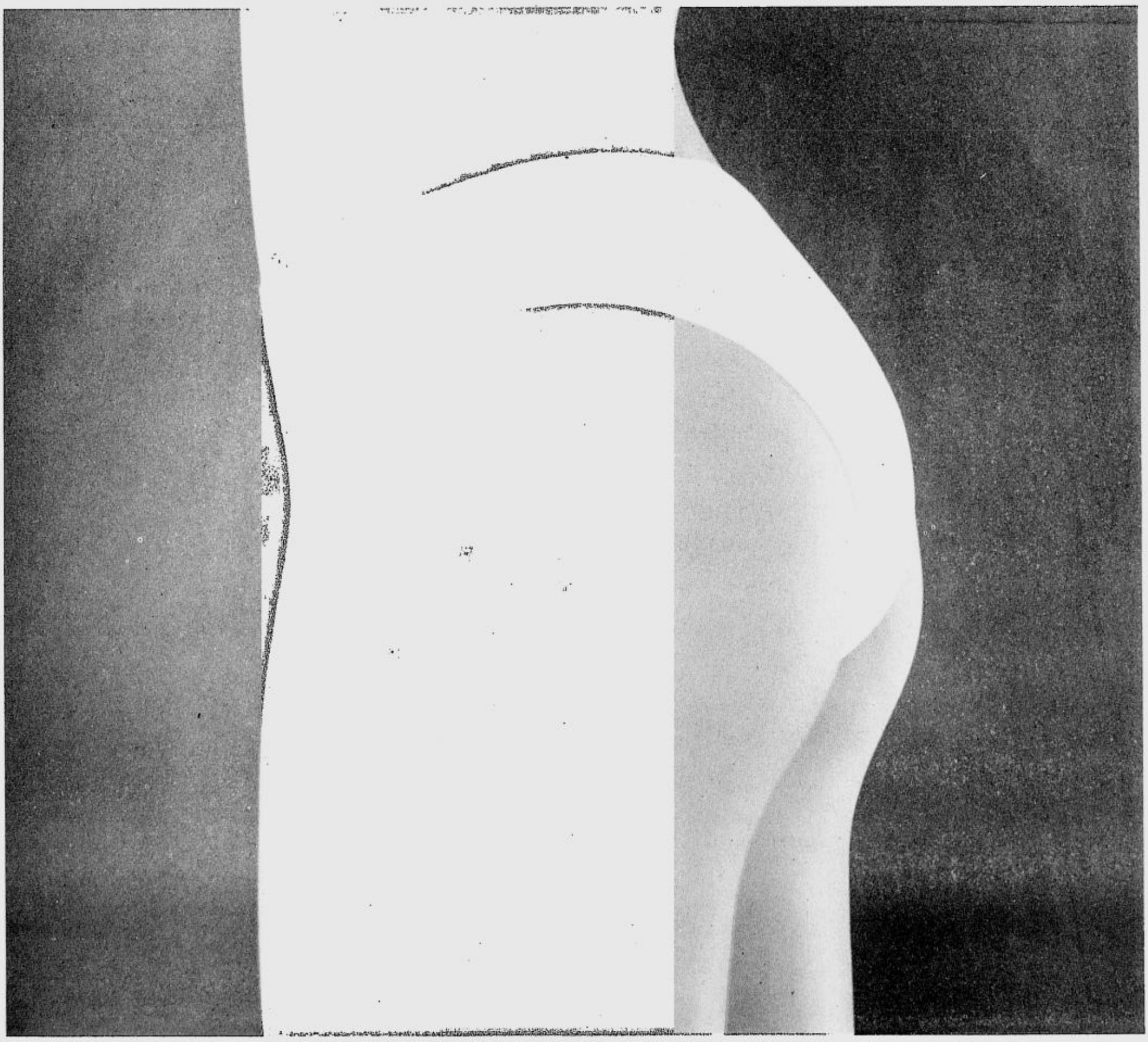
"Select a color scheme based on things you already have, on

a favorite holiday decorat
gests Ruiz.

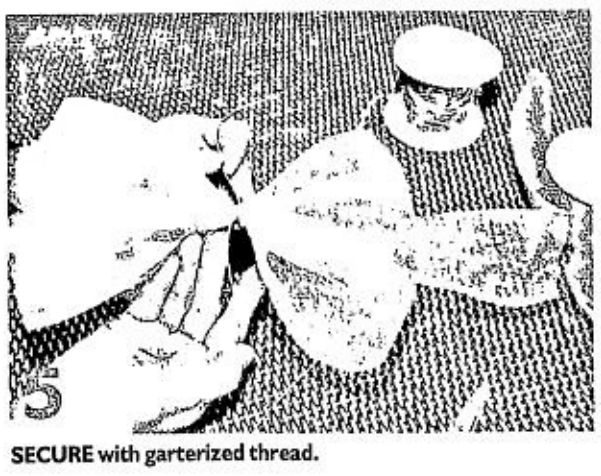
Ribbon is a great mat
comes in wide and narro
edges will help you arran

You can get a bunch o
Berde Plants in Bicutan or
needed are Christmas ligh
of thin wire (gauge 26) a
ware for P30-P50, hooks
P200 and garterized gold
(stars, bells, hearts) costs

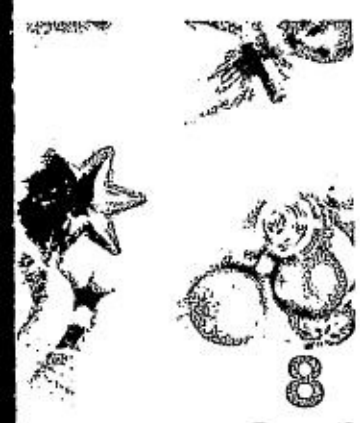
For suggestions, e-mail t



d ribbons.



SECURE with garterized thread.



aving space between the frond and htly.

on or the colors in your home," sug-

rial to use for corner drops and it widths, patterned or plain. Wired e it on the greens.

plastic ferns for your project from any flower shops at P195 each. Also ts (100 bulbs for only P45-60), a roll vailable at your neighborhood hard- at P1 each, wired ribbons for P150- strings. A pack of 24 Christmas balls P200.

e author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

HANG the decorated fern on your corner ceiling and attach the ribbons.

You can brighten up house corners this holiday season at a low cost

ENERGY FOR THE YUPPIE

EAT. SLEEP. Drink and be merry.

Insert a bare minimum of 40 hours of work a week, and this might well be the average young professional's mantra.

Today's go-getters slave away at the office, their routines peppered with meetings, presentations and deadly deadlines. In an effort to counterbalance this grueling pattern, yuppies embrace R & R with a vengeance.

This 180° turn has young professionals trooping to their weekend Meccas - the latest "It" bar, rural retreats, or the no-brainer mall gimmick.

Such a work-hard-play-hard existence requires effort, effectiveness, and energy, con sidering that the average male professional needs 2,750-kilocalories (units of energy) daily. On the flip side, the average career woman requires 1,900.

These energy requirements can be derived from the carbohydrates, proteins and fats found in food. However, this food energy can only be utilized through the powerful combination of vitamins C and B-complex.

Vitamin B-Complex acts as catalyst in converting sugars and carbohydrates into energy. They are converted into co-enzymes, which are high energy compounds used in the transfer of a variety of substances during energy-generating body processes. These processes include metabolism of carbohydrates, breakdown of fatty acids, and generation of glucose from glycogen.

Vitamin C in turn, plays a pivotal role in the production of adrenal hormones; these hormones mobilize the fat stored in the body, and convert it into energy.

The synergy of these Energy Vitamins provides the essential metabolic elements in utilizing carbohydrates, proteins, and fats, the three principal sources of energy. For optimum release of energy, Vitamins C and B-complex must work simultaneously.

The highest levels of these Energy Vitamins can be found in **ENERVON**. The substantial amounts of Vitamins C and B-complex ensure the maximum release of energy.

For the young urban professional who leads an extreme, vigorous, if not hedonistic lifestyle, **ENERVON** is a must. Eat. Sleep. Drink, work and be merry without the worry.

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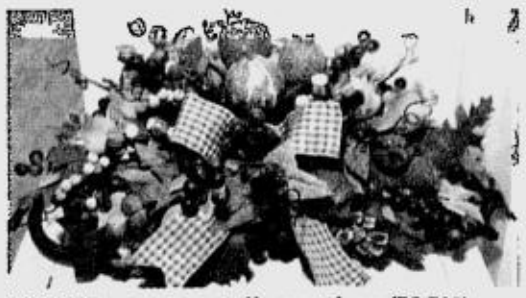
7-FT metal ball tree (P18,000)



26" VINE arrangement of harvest decor (P2,500)

Sleighful . . .

From page L1

During the holidays, she treats her husband Nelson and sons Marc-Andre and Jean Pierre and friends to a party where they get to trim a tree in a contest and sing carols. Special touches such as these make the holidays memorable. After all, Christmas isn't just for kids, Leung says. "We're all children at heart."

30" RED berry wreath (P3,500)

Tradition and romance

Through her company Tamilee Decors, Leung blends tradition and her unique romantic style to make Christmas a special day not only for her loved ones but for her clients as well.

Located at 325-A P. Guevarra St., San Juan, Tamilee Decors (tels. 7249110/7267609) features a host of radiant Christmas decorations, which harmonize with the latest home trends. Bright Christmas colors lend themselves to both whimsical and elegant looks.

"Decking the halls and every place else in your home is part of the excitement of the season. Wreaths, garlands, boughs and tree ornaments add a sense of life's bounty to the holidays," Leung says.

One of Leung's hearth-inspired designs is the harvest, a tribute to the Americans' celebration of Thanksgiving. Its hues are burgundy and orange. "A lot of Filipinos love this design even if we don't celebrate such occasion," she says. "I guess it's because you can keep the décor all-year round."

BURGUNDY magnolia on baroque urn (P600)

CENTERPIECE arrangement on urn (P2,500)

TAMI and Nelson Leung

Gifts for friends

Before Leung put up Tamilee Decors in 1987, she was already creating Christmas ornaments as gifts for friends. At that time, Leung and her family were residing in Vigan, Ilocos Sur. She and her husband were tobacco traders.

Leung would collect all the seeds and tree branches she'd find in their hometown. By July, she'd fashion them into glorious works of art.

When they transferred to Manila, Leung visited the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem). A month after, she joined the Furniture Accessories and Merchandise show.

"Citem was instrumental in my going to the export business," Leung says. "They sent me to a lot of seminars so I could learn the ins and outs of the business. I was given a special booth during the show and from then on, I got a good number of clients."

Since then, Tamilee Decors has been exporting its products to upscale department stores abroad such as Neeman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue, Macy's, Bloomingdale's and Harrods.

In 2000, the company was given the Golden Shell Award. Through the years, it also received awards from international firms for outstanding performance as a supplier.

Cory's favorite

During the term of former president, Corazon Aquino, Tamilee Decors designed Malacañang Palace and the Arlegui presidential residence during the holidays.

Since then, she has been decorating Aquino's house on Times Street, Quezon City every year.

"Ms. Aquino used to give our decorations as gifts to her friends. She has brought a lot of guests to our showroom. She has been my biggest promoter," Leung says.

Of late, the company installed a 12-ft Christmas tree in a house in Alabang. Garlands on railings and window frames were also set up for 12 hours.

The tallest Tamilee Decors had installed was a 23-ft tree, also in Alabang. For four years now, Leung has been taking care of the trimmings for the homeowner. After removing the decorations, she cleans each one of the ornaments and properly stores them.

"Before installing them again, I make sure that they're properly painted and in good condition," she says.

The company charges a minimal fee for delivery and installing. "If it's outside Metro Manila, we ask our clients to send their staff to our office so we could teach them how to set up the décor so they'd just do it themselves once they return to their province."

Aside from houses, Tamilee Decors also spruces up hotels. Two years ago, the company decorated hotels in Hong Kong like Island Shangri-La and Conrad Hotel. "Conrad even asked us to decorate the hotel the whole year round but the task was too great for us. But it was fun designing hotels for the holidays," Leung says.

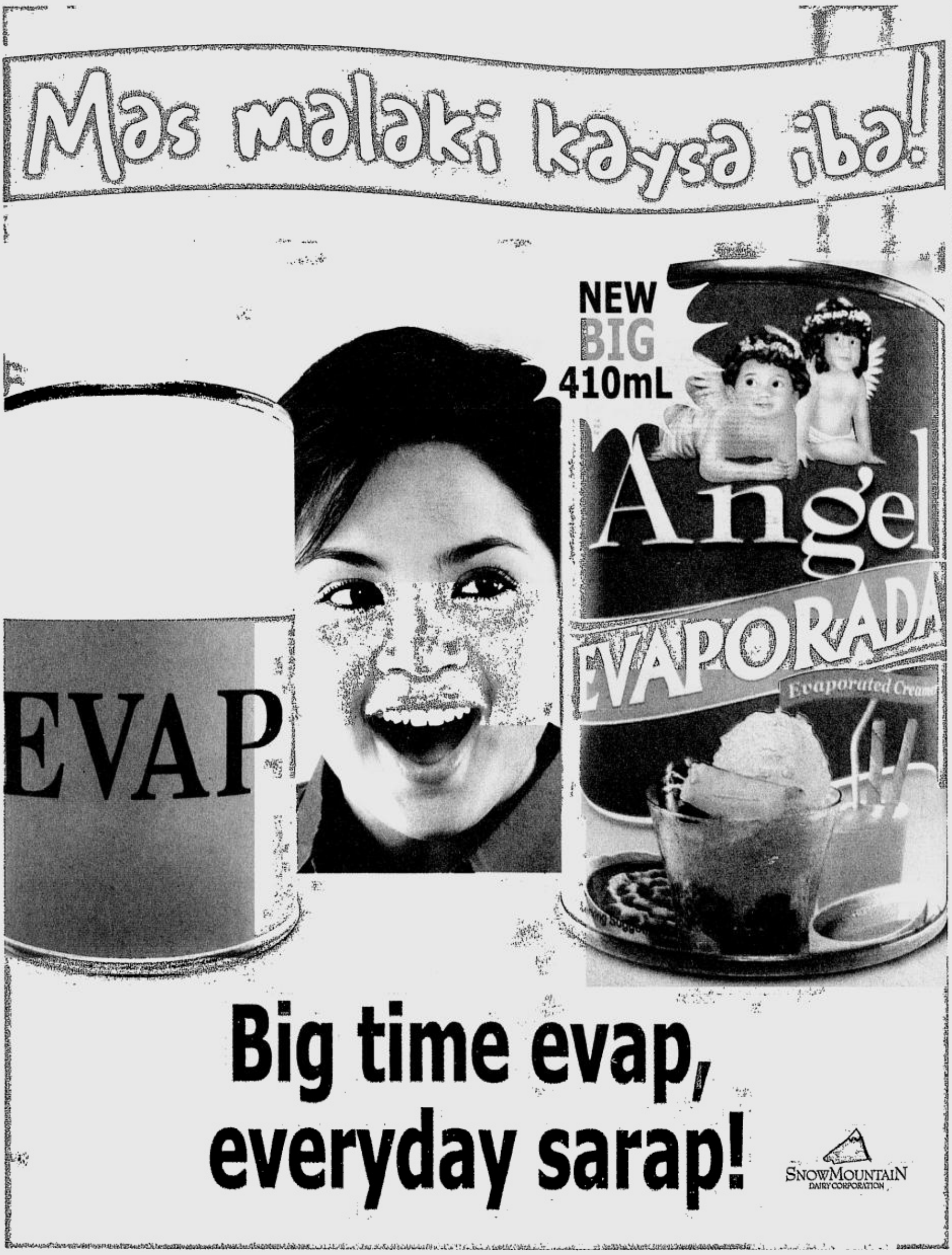
Kaleidoscope

Tamilee Decors embraces the season's joy with a kaleidoscope of hues and decorations that kindle childlike spirit and whimsy.

Red and green are still the traditional colors, Leung says. But gold and silver are also popular. "We have floral burgundy with velvet and gold, burgundy tone bordering on natural colors," she says. "This year, we focus on artichokes and design them with foliage. Two years ago, it was the 100th year anniversary of the Wright brothers. The trimmings had a lot to do with aviation. Trees were adorned with small planes. The millennium celebration highlighted unusual colors like silver, gray, black."

Tamilee Decors gives service contracts to livelihood centers and cooperatives in February to September. In September, the company holds a sample sale. "We get rid of everything so we can come up with a new line," Leung says. "There may be difficulties along the way but nature's myriad forms like the way a leaf folds or a branch falls bring out the best in my works."

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph



RACHY Cuna sees a gift wrapper even in doormats, Chinese take-out boxes and coco coir.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

For feedback, text us at (0919) 880-3354 or (0916) 200-1160
or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Rachy's wrapture

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Romy Homillada

RACHY Cuna says it only takes a little effort to make something nice for friends and loved ones.

Easy for him to say, of course.

While no doubt many people can manage the little effort, they will probably run short of the imagination and creativity needed to come up with his unique and refreshing packaging.

So Cuna tries to help them along in what is becoming an annual event, a demonstration of wrapping techniques at Borders, the lifestyle store at the ground floor of the GE Philippines Building, Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City.

This year's event was called "Wrap-

RACHY'S/ M3

e yourself.

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YOSHINOYA

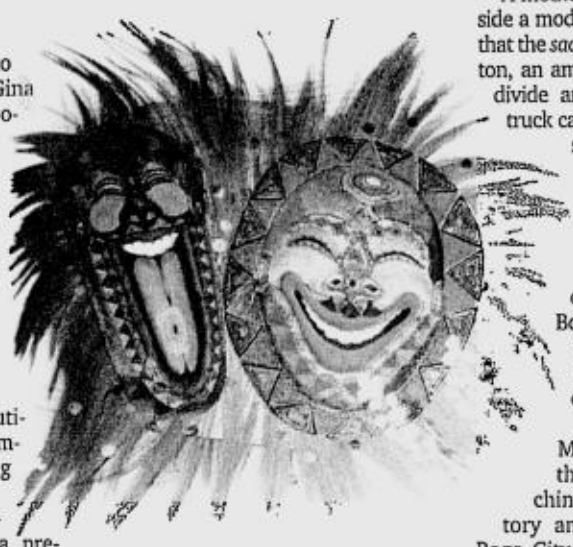
TRAVEL

Editor Rosario A. Garcellano

The other faces of Negros Occidental

Text and photos by Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

IT WAS Masskara time last month, "the festival of smiling masks" of Bacolod, capital city of Negros Occidental. And the sponsoring shipping firm had prepared a media familiarization tour that would reveal a new face of the province and its cities and towns.



VINTAGE Masskara smile

"It will be like a 'Sail-away Package' to Negros," promised Gina Virtusio, PR and corporate communications manager of WG&A SuperFerry on board SF-14 that night. (Judd Salas, WG&A PR and communications specialist, had told the media girls: "This is not a glamour trip, so don't bother to look beautiful. Bring your swimming and trekking gear.")

The evening buffet was excellent—a preview of things to come, for the hectic itinerary would also be a food trip.

The following day, there was a dzMM "Live on Location" program aboard the ship, which was part of the Masskara hype. Three brave souls—among them newscaster Caroline—zestfully acted out the "Lights, Camera, Emote" portion, in which each played a *balikbayan* returning home and catching his/her spouse "in the act" of betrayal.

But in the "Wagi or Sawi" (multiple-choice quiz), the media team disgraced itself in not knowing that Mesopotamia is the former name of Iraq.

Day One in Bacolod began with a visit to WG&A's Sigla livelihood program for porters. Some of these porters, as any seafarer will tell you, have grown old on the job, although they are still sturdy. They earn P150 a day, have three or four children, and more often than not a wife who is not regularly employed. So they won't be porters forever, the program teaches them income-generating skills, from cooking to administering the perfect massage.

What may be the ecological showpiece of Negros Occidental is the refreshing Mambukal Mountain Resort in Minoyan, Murcia. It nestles 1,200 feet above sea level along the foothills of Mt. Kanlaon, home to 500 species of ferns. The area is criss-crossed by streams, boulders and rock formations, seven falls, swimming pools, a lagoon, trees with massive trunks, a Canopy Walk with hanging bridges, and a vertical wall for climbing.

You can see schools of bats asleep high up in the trees, looking exactly like motionless leaves.

Mambukal is recommended for trekking, swimming, kayaking, rock wall-climbing, picnicking and camping. There are standard cottages, a Governor's Lodge, a conference room and function rooms.

"It is the last virgin forest in the province," said Edyll Tan of the Department of Tourism.

En route to Mambukal, along the Murcia highway, the media team stopped to chat with some six *sacadas* (migrant sugar plantation workers) toiling beside a truck filled with sugarcane stalks. They looked quite young, and indeed two were teenagers. (The youngest said he was 15, although he looked 10 or 12.)

A mother carrying her baby outside a modest cottage informed me that the *sacadas* were paid P100 per ton, an amount which they would divide among themselves. (The truck can carry about six tons of sugarcane.)

The scenery is backdropped by Mt. Kalandog and Mt. Kanlaon. The two mountains were once united, according to van driver Bong's story, but were later separated, perhaps by some cataclysmic earthquake or explosion.

The whirr of bats in Mambukal segued into the hum of reeling machines at the Oisca silk factory and sericulture farm in Bago City, which is, like Murcia, south of Bacolod. Here was another eye-opener for the media team.

The training center is a Filipino-Japanese venture. Manager Thelma Watanabe showed us around and explained the fascinating process that begins with eggs purchased from Japan and Misamis Oriental.

The worms are nurtured within countless leaves from the nearby mulberry trees, and protected from pests.

"The droppings from the worms can be made into cosmetics," Thelma noted.

The silkworms are first hatched and distributed to farmers. The silkworms grow, become cocoons, are harvested and brought to the center where they are boiled, reeled and re-reeled by machine, and finally compressed into silk yarn, the finished product.

In the expert hands of weavers from Aklan, they become exquisite formal attire, like *barongs, ternos, trajes de boda, patadyongs* and kimonos.

On to the food. Who can resist *piaya, barquillos* and the other snack items that the Visayans are so good at making?

FRESH waters of Mambukal Mountain Resort

At the BongBong's factory on Araneta Street in Bacolod, we saw how the workers mixed the ingredients (flour, *moscovado* sugar, vegetable lard and sesame seeds) and flattened and baked the *piaya*. They worked quickly and efficiently, churning out the product with hardly a pause.

For *pasalubong* (take-home food), BongBong's and Virgie's in downtown Bacolod are your best bets.

A new recreation spot is the Nature's Village Resort in Talisay City, only a few kilometers north of Bacolod. It caters to businessmen and has a golf driving range and tennis court, among other amenities.

The owners, the Sarrosa family, take pride in the fact that all the materials were procured locally. The walls, polished to a sheen, are recycled wood from railroad tracks.

(We were told that some recent guests were a basketball team from Manila. The players are so tall that extensions had to be brought in for their beds.)

The media team was impressed by a lush trellis hanging over the café-restaurant and laden with flowers called Ilonggo vines.

On Matti Street in Bago City came a date with history: the General Juan Araneta Residence & Landmark Museum, better known as the Balay ni Tan Juan (the Tan stands for "Kapitan").

Araneta was a revolutionary leader in 1898. His claim to fame is that, during the siege of Bacolod that year, he outwitted the Spanish authorities with a brilliant ruse: uniformly shaped nipa palm fronds with shiny knives, along with a few real rifles, and rolled *sawali* (bamboo flats) mats painted black and mounted on wooden carts.

"PIAYA" all in a row at BongBong's

Peering through their telescopes in the bell tower of the San Sebastian Church in Bacolod, Gov. Isidro de Castro and his staff saw what they thought were "thick formations of men heavily armed with rifles with glistening bayonets and pulling some cannons."

As a result, the governor was persuaded to surrender to Araneta.

The general's ancestral home was later donated to the city government by the family, and the National Historical Institute declared it a historical landmark. They don't make mansions like this anymore. The stately, well-maintained house is big and spacious, with awnings, graceful wood carvings, *capiz*-shell windows, gables, antiques, jars, vintage photos, paintings, and four-poster beds.

But oh yes, we were talking about the Masskara Festival.

That Sunday morning last month, as the nine-day festivities were about to climax, Jojo Regollo, president of the Art Association of Bacolod, demonstrated the making of a smiling Masskara mask.

The meticulous process entails a mold on which are placed seven layers of wet newsprint. The paper is dried for 30-40 minutes and then painted with latex-acrylic. And then, voila! You have Bacolod folk art at its best.

Regollo also explained the origins of the festival, which began in 1980 because the provincial folk wanted to smile away, and put a mask, on their sorrows.

That year the province was in crisis. Malnutrition, as always, was rampant, and the price of sugar had plummeted. A collision at sea had claimed the lives of many Bacoleños and other Negrenses. And thus was born the Masskara.

That Sunday there was a parade of floats. The masked dancers trooped to the Paglaum Stadium for the initial judging, and then made their way through the streets of Bacolod, as tens of thousands turned out.

By then I had to leave, and I was on my way back to Manila via SuperFerry 9. But I have it on the best authority that Masskara 2003 was a blast.

NEW DELFTWARE HOUSE

To mark its 84th anniversary, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines is introducing a new Delftware blue and white house. The ceramic ornament is a miniature replica of the historic building Taverne de Oude Munt (Old Mint Tavern) in Weert, where the Count of Horne had his coins minted during the 80 Years War. Delftware houses, filled with Bols Jonge Jenever, have been given to KLM World Business Class passengers since the 1950s. A unique Delftware house is added each year to the collection, which, since 1994, has corresponded with the age of the airline.

Dream come true on the high seas

ARE you dreaming of yourself on board a luxury ship, enjoying champagne and caviar while waiting for daybreak? For working stiffs like yourself, it's possible to make this dream a reality.

Marlene Adelina Pajanel, sales manager of Star Cruises (Philippines and Guam), is eager to debunk the notion that taking a cruise is expensive. "What many don't know is that it's more affordable, practical and convenient than traveling by air. What's more, you get to visit a lot of places upon disembarking at different ports across the globe," she says.

Star Cruises, the first global cruise line and acknowledged leader in the Asia Pacific, has for a decade been offering adventures on the high seas for travelers of all ages. With its modern ships, it has allowed travelers to enjoy the wonders of Southeast Asia.

Now the routes are more varied, and the options and activities greater. SuperStar Leo offers cruise itineraries to the cosmopolitan city of Hong Kong, and then to China and Vietnam, while SuperStar Virgo sails the waters of Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia.

Star Cruises is celebrating its 10th year of navigating the high seas. As a treat, all guests sailing from now until Feb. 29 next year are entitled to take part in a lucky draw. The prizes? A pair of 2.7-carat diamond earrings and pendant (first), two 1-carat diamond rings (second) and two tennis bracelets (third).

SuperStar Leo is the cruise line's first and largest ship in the Asia Pacific, with 13 decks and 983 cabins exuding elegance and comfort. Its twin, SuperStar Virgo, showcases the best of classic and Mediterranean designs, with rich marble and wood furnishings.

Guests have the choice of staying in an executive or junior suite with balcony, an ocean view stateroom with balcony or window, or an inner stateroom. The cabins' standard features include a TV/VCR, a stocked small refrigerator, and a separate seating area with sofa and desk.

The ship itself, so big it can fit 12 football fields, is a destination. There are sports and recreational facilities such as a gymnasium, golf driving range, swimming pools, spa, beauty salon, as well as dining and entertainment outlets (including the 930-seat Moulin Rouge where guests can marvel at live performances like the spectacular "Night Girls," a Las Vegas-style revue featuring the Star Cruises dancers). There are also facilities for business meetings as well as boutiques offering souvenirs, gifts and duty-free items.

Rates start at $380 (twin sharing, exclusive of airfare), for three days and two nights of cruising and appreciating panoramic vistas. The rate covers cabin accommodations, six full-board meals a day, entrance to nightly theater shows, use of swimming pool, jacuzzi, gym and sports facilities, and access to bars, discos, karaoke and ballroom.

ADVENTURE on the water

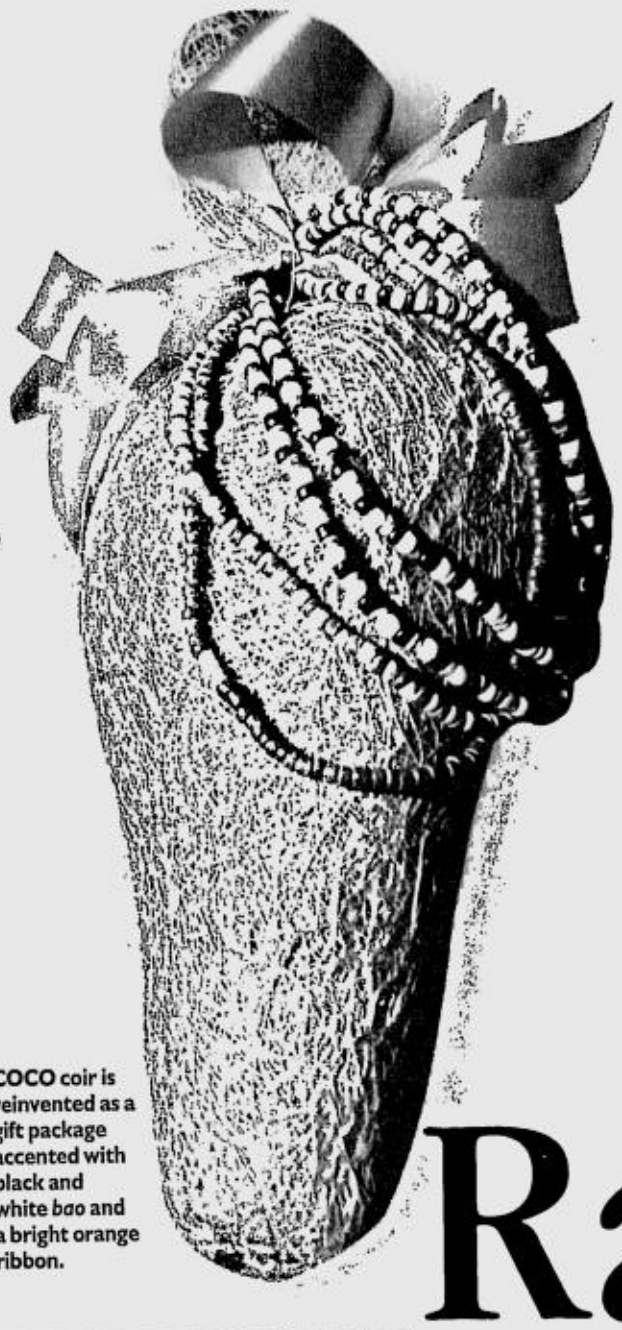
Both adults and children can expect a range of activities on board, as well as a relaxing blend of days in port and time spent at sea.

Guests are briefed on various options at each port of call, says Pajanel. "They can join one of our arranged guided tours or they can explore on their own. Guests are usually given eight to 10 hours on land so they have more time to enjoy themselves," she says.

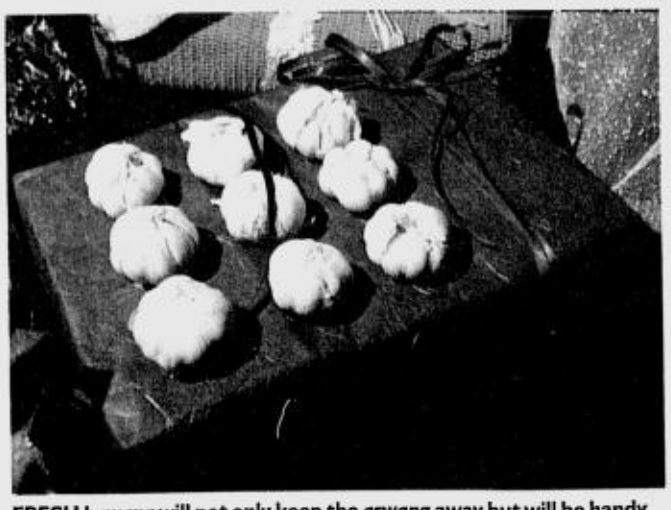
Pajanel notes that more and more Filipinos are exploring the joys of cruising.

"Hopefully, with our fleet of ships, we can offer more Filipinos a luxurious, memorable and affordable cruise experience, the kind that they truly deserve," she says.

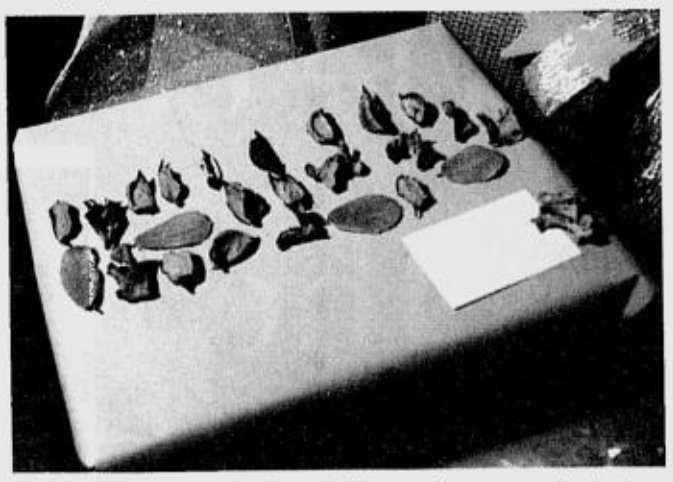
For inquiries, call (63)2-521-5660 or 526-8401.



COCO coir is reinvented as a gift package accented with black and white *bao* and a bright orange ribbon.



FRESH *bawang* will not only keep the *aswang* away but will be handy when preparing Noche Buena fare.



GREEN potpourri not only shows off the peach wrapper to its best advantage but also gives off a delightful scent.

Rachy's wrapture

In gift-wrapping, Cuna literally thinks outside the box

From page M1

ture at Borders."

As in the past, the noted stylist proved once again that he literally thought outside the box. Unless the gift already came in a box, he avoided as much as possible using one to hold his presents.

There were baskets in different materials and designs, throw pillows, placemats and even doormats for putting the gifts in.

Just as he does not set any limits to where he lets his imagination and creativity take him, scrimping on wrappers or ribbons does not cross his mind when preparing his packages.

As he advised his audience at the Borders demonstration, "When you do ribbons, never think of the word "tipid." And Cuna probably meant that to apply as well to everything related to gift packaging and wrapping.

One has only to go on a shopping expedition with Cuna to realize that his creative mind moves in a different direction from many other people's.

There are no boundaries, no preconceived notions of where to get what. Cuna can buy up bundles of surplus wallpaper or pick one *ukay-ukay* piece with a rich fabric. He can just as easily find his wrappers and packaging materials in a handicraft store or in a hardware shop.

While others even have trouble thinking of how best to use the usual gift wrapper and ribbon, Cuna is coming up with ideas for coco coir, a Chinese take-out box and a macramé belt.

The way Cuna makes things, it is often hard to tell which is the true gift—what is inside or the packaging.

He could just as easily wrap something simple in an authentic and expensive Versace silk scarf or use a jade pendant in lieu of ribbon, or put something valuable in a native basket with only a piece of Christmas tree décor for accent.

Others may see gift-wrapping as just a chore that has to be done during the holidays and special occasions. But Cuna thinks of it as another opportunity to showcase one's style, much like fashion.

ORNAMENTAL fruiting pepper is put in an abaca box while the base of the plant is covered with silver tinsel.

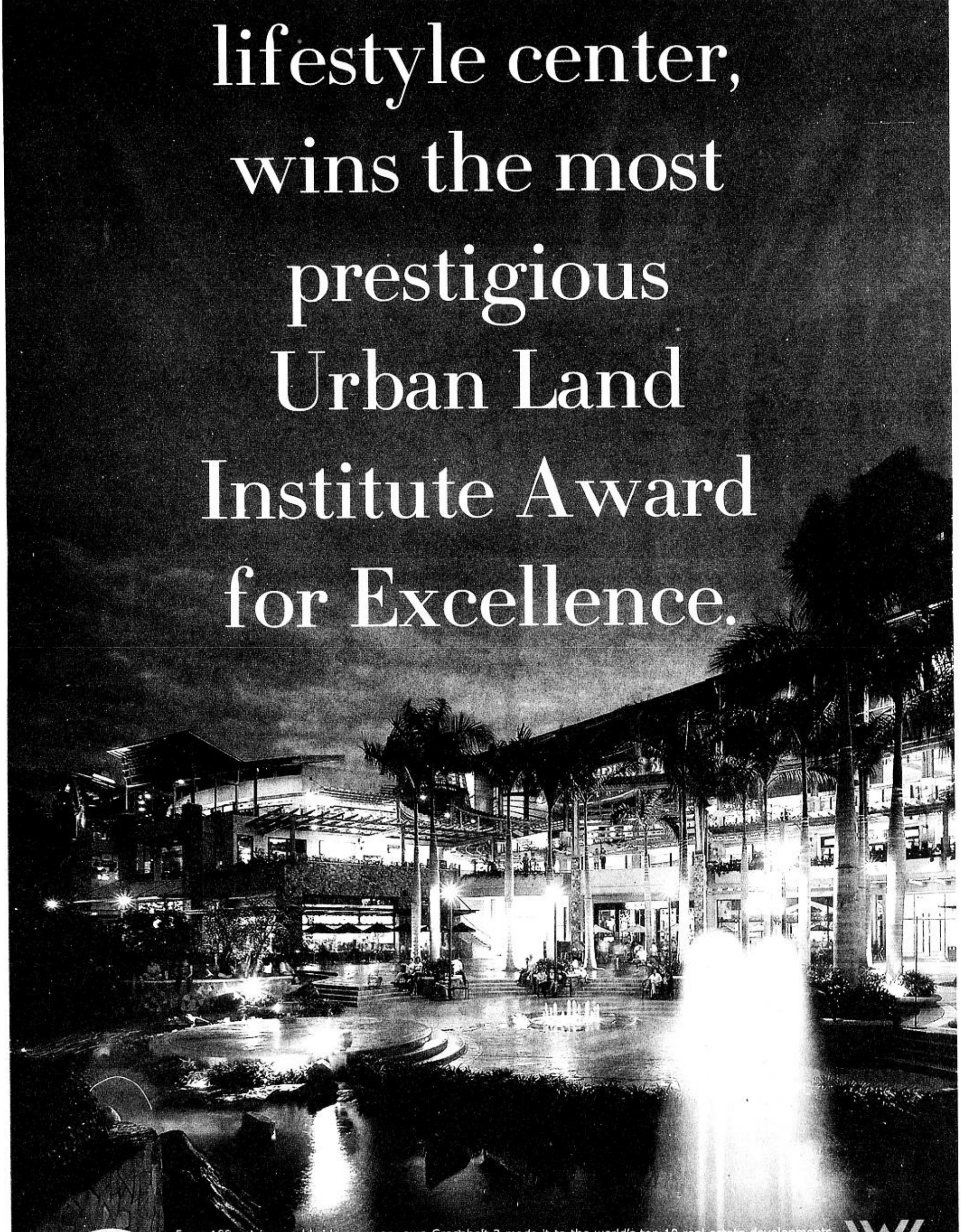
GLITTERY green mesh fabric arranged like a *balutan* is topped with a ball of yarn and dried red twigs.

A ONE year subscription to a magazine is wrapped in a colorful—and more expensive—genuine Versace silk scarf.

A "HOPPING" Christmas gift. Cuna wraps a pink box in green tulle and tops the whole thing with multi-colored plastic frogs.

MAYBELLINE NEW YORK
The Hit List
Kiss high prices goodbye!
Water Shine LIQUID DIAMONDS
Be flawless for less.
CLEAR SMOOTH
Open your eyes to a prettier price.
Per DOH BFAD Permit No. 1057 Series of 2003.
MAYBELLINE NEW YORK

Greenbelt 3, the country's first lifestyle center, wins the most prestigious Urban Land Institute Award for Excellence.



From 109 entries worldwide, our very own Greenbelt 3 made it to the world's top 10 real estate developments recognized by the Urban Land Institute as one of three excellent shopping centers for 2003. Greenbelt was judged to have met the criteria for excellence, from contribution to community, response to social needs and environmental protection to innovation and leadership. We are equally proud to have been recognized with a Merit Award from the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC). Those are two international recognitions for the country's first lifestyle center. And though they stand as proof that all our developments are world-class, we at Ayala Land will never forget that everything we do is, first and foremost, for the Filipino people.

AYALA LAND

JOB Market

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2003
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Thursday 12:00 noon

OVERSEAS SECTION
ON PAGE N11

Where You Find The Best. N

Global Customer Services

TERADYNE

Is the world's largest supplier of automatic test equipment and software for the telecommunications and electronics industries. It is engaged in parts and repair services support for mixed signal, VLSI and memory testing. Its Repair Center facility in Cebu has been in operation since 1996 and its Customer Care Center that recently opened in 2003 employs more than 100 personnel. With the unprecedented growth of the Company, we are looking for applicants who are creative, aggressive, and mature to fill up the following positions:

SR. TEST DESIGN/FAILURE ANALYSIS ENGINEER

(CODE: STE)

GCS mission is to provide world-class repair and replacement part services that our customers value. We are looking for a Sr. Test Engineer to be situated in our repair Location in Cebu, Philippines. He shall be responsible in test equipment programs, validation and verification programs, modification, upgrades and/or repair. He shall closely work with other engineers and other divisions for process and quality improvements. He should be very competent and he will act as technical mentor and/or coach to other test engineers in improving technical repair in Cebu. Other responsibilities include asset utilization and participation on quality improvement teams through the use of TQM concepts. The candidate must be very flexible, as the position requires meetings outside the daily workday with team based in the US as well as potential travel to the US.

Qualifications:
- BSECE, BSEE, MS in Engineering preferred.
- At least 10 years extensive experience as test, failure analysis, field or design engineer in the semiconductor industry.
- Experience in Hardware / Software validation and verification for medium or high-end testers.
- Comprehensive knowledge in unix, solaris, windows based application and knowledge in C++ programming.
- Must have experience in managing more than 10 Test / Failure Analysis Engineers.
- Good verbal and written communication skills.

TEST ENGINEER

(CODE: TE)

Duties/Responsibilities/Essential Functions:
He shall be responsible for identifying and researching component failures to improve good yields, quality and reliability. Analyzes failure reports and recommends corrective action to prevent recurrence of problems. Uses all digital and analog electronic test equipment and test systems to do board failure analysis and debugging. May support new product transfer startup/set-up, and the improvement of the failure analysis process. Promotes shared learning across Repair Division and other functional groups.

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Engineering course preferably in Electronics and Communications, Electrical Engineering.
- 2-3 years extensive experience as test, field or design engineer in the semiconductor industry is an advantage
- Has a high sense of urgency in dealing with the job and can interface with different level of positions in the organization
- **Must have comprehensive knowledge in unix, windows based application and C++ programming.**

BOARD REPAIR TECHNICIANS

(CODE: BRT)

Qualifications:
- BSECE, BSEE, BSIT-ELECTRONICS Graduate
- Knowledgeable in electronics board troubleshooting, soldering and repair
- Goal and results-oriented, assertive and hardworking
- Computer literate

BOARD REPAIR TECHNICIANS – NIPONGGO SPEAKING

(CODE: BRT-NS)

Qualifications:
- BSECE, BSEE, BSIT-ELECTRONICS Graduate
- Knowledgeable in electronics board troubleshooting, soldering and repair
- Goal and results-oriented, assertive and hardworking
- Computer literate
- Knows how to speak Niponggo fluently and can preferably write in Niponggo

The successful candidates will receive a competitive compensation and benefits package within the semiconductor and electronics industry and has the opportunity to work in a technology driven company like TERADYNE.
Please send your **application letter** together with your **resumé** and **2x2 ID picture not later than 19 November 2003** to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Teradyne Philippines, Ltd.
Mactan Export Processing Zone II
Basak, Lapu-Lapu City
Cebu, Philippines 6015
or email to Philippines.jobs@terdayne.com

(Please write position code in your application letter or in the subject of your e-mail)

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www.ambergrissolutions.com
OPEN HOUSE: Mondays-Fridays, 9AM to 7PM. Walk-ins will be immediately interviewed.

DIRECTOR FOR WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT

- ✓ Strong grasp of workforce management methodology – previous call center scheduling, capacity planning and MIS reporting experience is a must.
- ✓ Enhance intraday queue management practice to ensure center meets all performance and head count goals.
- ✓ Coordinate new hire process with training, recruiting and center management to maintain committed head count.
- ✓ Effectively manage scheduling to meet or exceed all staffing and compliance goals.
- ✓ Provide center with accurate reporting and analysis on a regular basis.
- ✓ Competencies include but not limited to: Business Mastery, Strategic Planning, Report Analysis, Forecasting, Project Management, Organizational Leadership, Relationship Management, Multi-tasking exercises.
- ✓ Experience working in a high volume, inbound contact center environment locally or abroad.
- ✓ Familiarity with Blue Pumpkin software is an advantage.
- ✓ Solid background in Statistical Math.

OPERATIONS MANAGER – SALES

- ✓ Responsible for managing the Program involving activities which contribute to the acquisition, satisfaction and retention of customers.
- ✓ Candidate must have 2 to 3 years experience in a call center, managing an account with sales targets and deliverables for 150 agents.
- ✓ Exposed to client-relationship management.
- ✓ Competencies include but not limited to: Business Mastery, Strategic Planning, Report Analysis, Forecasting, Project Management, Organizational Leadership, Relationship Management, Multi-tasking exercises.
- ✓ Experience working in a high volume, inbound contact center environment locally or abroad.
- ✓ Strong knowledge of PC hardware.

OPERATIONS MANAGER – TECHNICAL SUPPORT

- ✓ Responsible for managing the Program involving activities which contribute to the acquisition, satisfaction and retention of customers.
- ✓ Candidate must have 2 to 3 years experience in a call center, managing an account with sales targets and deliverables for 150 agents.
- ✓ Exposed to client-relationship management.
- ✓ Competencies include but not limited to: Business Mastery, Strategic Planning, Report Analysis, Forecasting, Project Management, Organizational Leadership, Relationship Management, Multi-tasking exercises.
- ✓ Experience working in a high volume, inbound contact center environment locally or abroad.
- ✓ Proven and demonstrable knowledge of PC hardware, networking and technical trouble shooting.

300 Inbound Sales Associates
350 Customer Interaction Associates
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American International Group, Inc. (AIG) is a Fortune 500 company and the world's leading international insurance and financial services organization, with operations in approximately 130 countries. AIG member companies serve commercial, institutional and individual customers through the most extensive worldwide property-casualty and life insurance networks of any insurer. AIG's global businesses also include financial services, retirement savings and asset management. The common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, as well as the stock exchanges in London, Paris, Switzerland and Tokyo. The local AIG companies in the Philippines are the Philam Group of Companies. AIG Business Processing Services, Inc. (AIG-BPSI), one of the newest member of the Philam Group, is a business process outsourcing (BPO) company serving the needs of AIG American General Life Insurance Companies. AIG-BPSI invites you to be part of its pioneering and fast-growing operations. Successful candidates will undergo intensive training and can look forward to a financially rewarding and enriching career.

TEAM LEADERS (Call Center)

Job Requirements:

- Graduates of any college course; advance degree is a plus
- Ability to prepare, analyze, and effectively use different MIS reports; Proficient in Microsoft Software applications
- Strong interpersonal/communication skills; can work effectively across language and cultural barriers
- Progress in / completion of industry (i.e. FLMI, CLU) and previous life insurance and/or customer service designation are added advantages.
- With at least 1 year experience as a supervisor in a Call Center servicing international clients.

Position Responsibilities:

- Manage processes assigned to the team based on established standards; Measure employee performance: productivity, attendance, efficiency, quality, etc.
- Manage staff assignments based on business needs/ capacity
- Coach team members on proper handling of transactions and support productivity improvement programs
- Manage a shift schedule from 9:00 PM – 5:30 AM

TEAM LEADERS (Business Processing)

Job Requirements:

- Graduates of any college course; advance degree is a plus
- Minimum of two years work experience in supervising people preferably in Insurance or Financial Service Institutions.
- Ability to prepare, analyze, and effectively use different MIS reports;
- Proficient in Microsoft Software applications
- Strong interpersonal/communication skills; can work effectively across language and cultural barriers
- Progress in / completion of industry (i.e. FLMI, CLU) and previous life insurance and/or customer service designation are added advantages.

Position Responsibilities:

- Manage processes assigned to the team based on established standards; Measure employee performance: productivity, attendance, efficiency, quality, etc.
- Manage staff assignments based on business needs/ capacity
- Coach team members on proper handling of transactions and support productivity improvement programs
- Manage a shift schedule from 9:00 PM – 5:30 AM

CALL CENTER SPECIALISTS

Job Requirements:

- Graduates of any college course; advance degree is a plus
- Responsible for handling customer inquiries, providing general information on the company's products and services and processing requests of customers to update policy information.
- Strong interpersonal/communication skills; can work effectively across language and cultural barriers
- Progress in / completion of industry (i.e. FLMI, CLU) and previous life insurance and/or customer service designation are added advantages.
- Excellent listening skills
- Strong interpersonal and customer service skills
- Computer literate
- Willing to work in the graveyard shift

Please submit your resumé w/ 2x2 picture and TOR at the 8/F Philamlife Building, Acacia Ave., Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, or email us at BPSI-APPLICANTS@AIG.COM

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We are looking for dedicated and enthusiastic self-starters who will be tasked to identify needs and recommend financial solutions to the customers of Equitable PCI Bank, our strategic partner.

Qualifications

- Graduate of any College Course
- Focused, customer-driven and results oriented
- Professional sales experience preferred, particularly in the financial services industry
- With pleasing personality and good communication skills
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Submit your resumé, transcript of records and photo now!

Corporate HR, 23rd Floor, Philamlife Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Email address: Philam.jobs@AIG.com ; Fax #: 885-87-06

Please indicate your desired position in the Subject Title

The **Foreign Service Institute** invites applicants for the following positions:

Computer Programmer III/ MIS Section Head	SG-18	Preferably Computer Engineering, Computer Science or Information Technology Management graduate; at least 2 years experience in progressively responsible positions in IT administration, management and operations; 8 hours relevant training in IT or MIS; have demonstrated supervisory position; proficient in Visual Basic 6.0 and html, MS Windows NT4, Internet and intranet, hardware and network diagnostics; excellent oral and written English communications skills; excellent customer servitce orientation; Career Service (Professional) Second Level eligibility.
Accountant III	SG-18	Bachelor's degree in Commerce/Business Administration major in Accounting; 2 years of relevant experience in a supervisory positon; 8 hours of relevant training; computer literate; excellent interpersonal skills; excellent oral and written communication skills; RA 1080 eligibility.
Human Resource Management Officer I	SG-11	Preferably a graduate of Behavioral Psychology, Behavioral Science or any related field of study; at least 1 year well-rounded work exposure in HR particularly in the areas of recruitment, testing and selection, performance management systems, career development and organization development; excellent written and oral English communication skills; creative, resourceful, analytical, team player, proficient in computer operations and possesses excellent interpersonal skills. Career Service (Professional) eligibility.
Librarian I	SG-10	Degree in Library Science, Information Science, Education/Arts major in Library Science; training and experience not required; excellent oral and written communication skills; excellent interpersonal relations; excellent customer service orientation; RA 1080 eligibility.
Clerk III	SG-8	Completed at least two years studies in college; training and experience not required; excellent interpersonal relations; excellent customer service orientation; Career Service (Sub professional) First Level Eligibility.

Please forward your letter of application, comprehensive resumé and recent photo, and copy of documentary evidence of Civil Service eligibility to:

The Personnel Officer
Foreign Service Institute
5/F Department of Foreign Affairs Building
2330 Roxas Boulevard, 1300 Pasay City

Closing date of vacancies indicated above is on 8 December 2003.

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successalliance

3 FIELD TECHNICIANS

Sustainable Cocoa Extension Services for Smallholders (SUCCESS Alliance) is looking for agriculture professionals:

- College degree in agriculture
- 3 - 5 years experience in farmer training
- Local resident of Palawan, Northern Luzon (Region 2) and Western Mindanao
- Working knowledge of cacao production
- Knowledge of farmer field schools an advantage
- English skills required

Field Technicians will have management responsibilities in Palawan, Northern Luzon, Zamboanga Peninsula and Basilan. Tasks will be to coordinate logistics and provide technical support to farmer training at the field level.

Send your application and comprehensive resume, current and expected salaries, recent photo and contact phone number, in private and confidential to:

Team Leader
2/F CUP Building, A. Roces Ave. corner Mo. Igancia St., Quezon City 1103
or e-mail at buco@info.com.ph

MARCEL TRADING CORPORATION
5/F, 926 Arnaeta Ave., Q.C./Tel. 712-2631
or e-mail at: hr@marcelearragoenam.com

We are in urgent need of the following:

MARKETING OFFICERS/ASSISTANTS

Graduates of:
- ☑ Food Technology, Chemistry, Marketing, Management, Chemical Engineering

Knowledge in:
- ☑ Computer Applications (at least knowledgeable in MS programs)
- ☑ Research methods and techniques
- ☑ Methods of reports preparation
- ☑ Writes well
- ☑ Fluent in English
- ☑ With at least 6 months experience in related field

Please apply in person w/ your resumé, 2x2 photo & TOR.

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November 25 (Tue)
2:00 to 6:00 pm

CALL: 6874445, 6874645 or 6873416

MILESTONE Early Child Development Center (A Progressive Preschool) is looking for a **PART-TIME MANDARIN TEACHER**. He/she must at least be a college student who is fluent both in Mandarin and English. He/she must be interested and able to handle children ages 2 to 5 years. Interested parties may contact the teachers thru 7446632 / 09193625817. Or you can send your resumé to 196 M. Paterno St., San Juan, M.M.

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Unit 3202D West Tower PSE Center
Exchange Road Ortigas Pasig City
On November 10-14 from 9am to 5pm

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ACCOUNTING CLERKS
- M/F, 20-29 yrs. old / Accounting graduate / Computer literate
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- B.S. Psychology graduate / not over 30 yrs. old
- With 1-2 yrs. related work experience

SECRETARIES/DATA ENCODERS/ MESSAGE HANDLING SPECIALIST
- 4 yr. course grad./not over 30 yrs. old proficient in computer
- personable / good communication skills

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**Bring resumé and credentials

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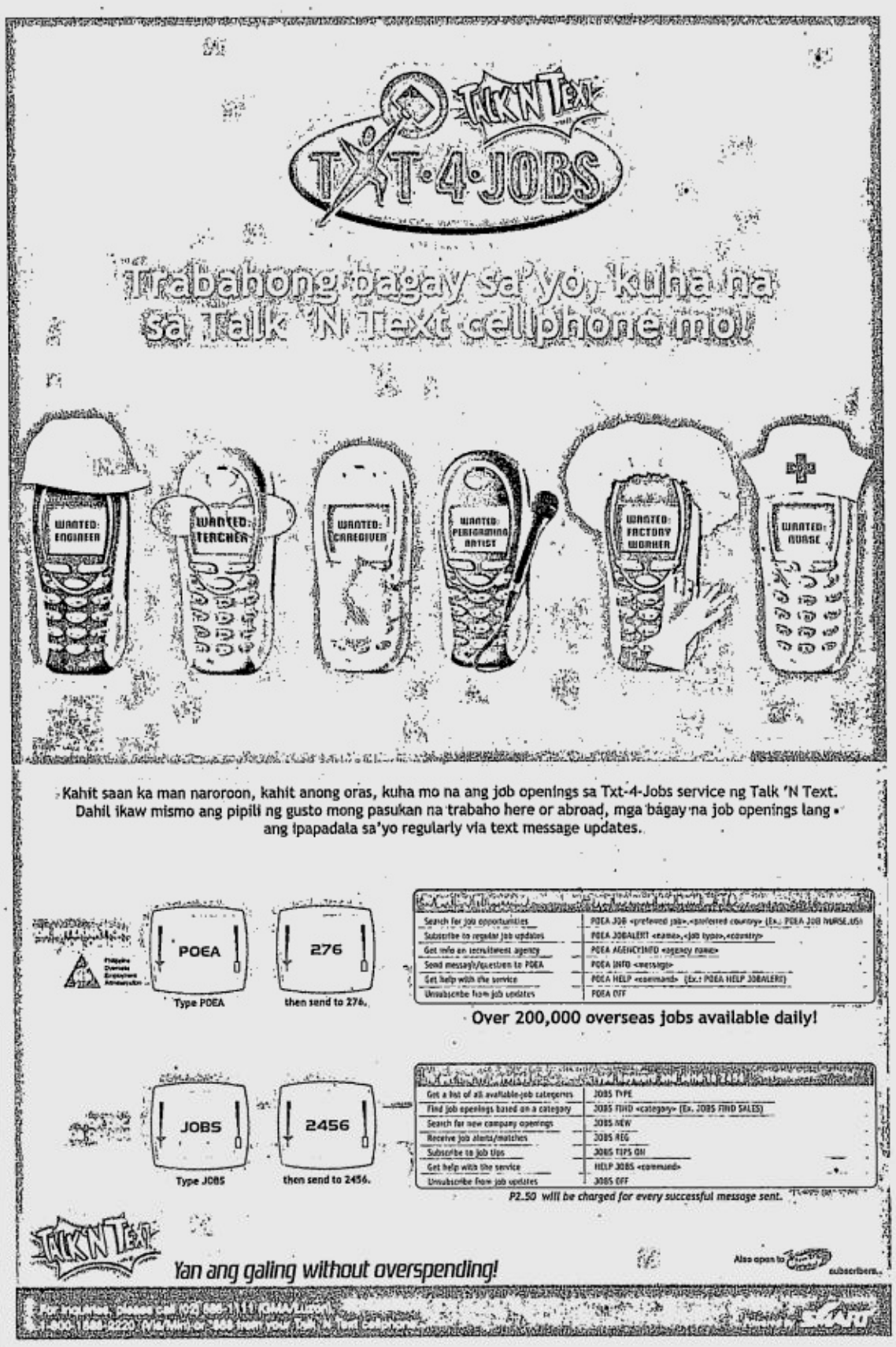

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Teletech, the leading provider in global customer care solutions for over 20 years is seeking exceptional Call Center Professionals for our Manila Call Center Operation. With global infrastructure support, our operations service broad range of North American clients. The depth of the organization offers the right person the potential to learn, develop and advance their career.

Essential requirements for all roles include 4 Year College Degree, Exceptional English Conversational skills and a willingness to work night shift.

SITE DIRECTOR
Position Number 1300
- Exceptional communication skills
- Ability to manage both external and internal clients
- Outstanding project management capabilities
- Proven experience working with a variety of clients
- Self-driven, with strong attention to details
- Minimum 5 year Client Relationship experience
- Charismatic and dynamic leader
- At least 5 years broad-based business experience or Senior Management Level experience in the service sector and in particular, technology, telecommunications environment
- Excellent organizational skills and able to manage multiple and changing priorities
- Sound financial planning skills a MUST

TEAM LEADERS
Position Number 1030
- Must have minimum of one year experience in a Team Leader role
- Exceptional Leadership and coaching skills
- Proven ability to motivate teams
- Experience in either sales, collections or inbound is a must

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES
Position Number 1020
- Inbound project
- Customer Service Focused
- Analytical and Solutions Focused
- Self motivated and results driven

OPERATIONS SUPPORT CENTER MANAGER
Position Number 1063
- Previous extensive work force planning experience essential
- Analytical and Solutions Focused
- Proven management experience in a Call Center environment. TCS V4, eWFM Series 5/6 or Blue Pumpkin experience an advantage

OPERATIONS SUPPORT CENTER SPECIALISTS
Position Number 1060
- 6 months call center experience
- Analytical Skills with attention to detail
- Exceptional mathematical capabilities
- Microsoft Excel experience advantageous

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Position Number 1040
- Outstanding influencing skills
- PRO ACTIVE go-getter
- Able to operate independently and in consultation with senior management
- Outstanding leadership ability
- Estensive experience in coaching, performance management
- Proven ability to achieve organizational goals

QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER
Position Number 1050
- Minimum 1 year call center management experience
- Outstanding attention to detail
- Exceptional leadership skills
- Proven listening and Analytical skills
- Training and/or Six Sigma experience highly desirable

QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISOR
Position Number 1051
- Min 1 year supervisory experience in a call center environment
- Exceptional program facilitation, coaching and feedback skills
- Good leadership skills· Experience in Training and Quality Assurance highly desirable

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
Position Number 1100
- Minimum 4 years HR Management experience
- Proven ability to lead and drive a dynamic HR team
- Responsible for recruitment, remuneration and benefits. Industrial Relations and Policy Development

CLIENT RELATIONSHIP MANAGER
Position Number 1090
- Exceptional communication skills within all levels of client organizations
- Ability to manage both external clients and internal teams
- Outstanding project management capabilities
- Proven experience working with a variety of clients
- Self driven, strong attention to detail
- Minimum 1 year Client Relationship experience
- Sense of Urgency is a must

QUALITY SPECIALISTS
Position Number 1050
- Minimum 6 months Call Center experience
- Outstanding attention to detail
- Exceptional Coaching and feedback skills
- Proven listening and Analytical skill

RECRUITMENT MANAGER
Position Number 1120
- Minimum 3 years experience
- Proven ability to hire large volumes in a short period of time, preferably in a call center environment
- Responsible for recruitment, remuneration and benefits. Industrial Relations and Policy Development

SENIOR IT ADMINISTRATOR
- Experience with PC installation, maintenance and configuration
- Familiar with network concepts and hardware (esp CISCO)
- Solid understanding of IT security principles
- MCSE / SA (2000) preferred
- Minimum 5 years IT support experience

TRAINERS
Position Number 1070
- Previous Training experience essential
- Exceptional presentation skills
- Ability to motivate trainees is a must
- Results focused and a desire to help others succeed
- Accent reduction training an advantage

PAYROLL SPECIALIST
Position Number 1065
- Minimum 2 years experience in payroll preparation
- Analytical, Solutions Focused
- Exceptional mathematical capabilities
- Working knowledge on payroll applications

If you think you've got what it takes, please send your application to Ms. Rose Halili, Office Manager, at the following e-mail address:
1. Operations Manager, CSR & Team Leader Position – OPSjobs@ph.teletech.com
2. Trainer – trainerjobs@ph.teletech.com
3. Payroll Specialists, OSC Manager, OSC Supervisor and OSC Specialists - OSCjobs@ph.teletech.com
4. Client Relationship Manager – CRMjobs@ph.teletech.com
5. Quality Assurance Manager, QA Supervisor & QA Specialist Position – QA_jobs@ph.teletech.com
6. Human Resources, Recruitment Manager position – hrjobs@ph.teletech.com
7. Senior IT Administrator - IT_jobs@ph.teletech.com
8. Site Director - SITEDIRECTOR@ph.teletech.com

Or thru mail - Attention: Ms. Rose Halili, Office Manager, TeleTech Customer Care Management Phils. Inc. P.O. Box 1786 MCPO Makati City, Philippines.
Kindly indicate in the envelope the Position Number of the job you are applying for.

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CINEMA MANAGER

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- Ideal candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in a business related course. Preferably in Management Engineering, Business Management or Marketing Management.
- Graduated in the top 20% of their class.
- He or she must be highly experienced and with proven track record in business development/management and marketing in mall operations.
- Minimum of 3 years experience in the same field will be given priority.
- Have strong "market" knowledge and exposure to retail trade operations.
- Possess excellent command of the English language.

Candidates may mail their resume with 2 x 2 ID photo with supporting credentials to:

Box MK - 136
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Classified Ads Division
G/F Atrium of Makati, Atrium Bldg.
Makati Avenue, Makati City

Job Location : National Capital Region - Metro Manila (NCR)
Salary : Negotiable based on qualifications and experience
Job Type : Full Time, Permanent

A company which emphasizes quality service, high work standards, team-oriented structures, and opportunities for career advancement, personal development, and professional growth invites you to join as:

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

- Male or Female, 35 – 40 years old
- Graduate of Behavioral Science; Masteral degree an advantage
- With at least 3 – 5 years managerial experience in the same capacity
- Extensive knowledge in HR program/systems design and implementation
- Familiar with labor laws and formulation of company policies
- Effective planning and organizational development skills
- Highly computer literate
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- With people-development skills, analytical, flexible, ability to work under pressure and demonstrates discretion, integrity and fair-mindedness

Interested applicants may send their application letter and resume with 2x2-colored picture to:

P.O. Box 2074 MCPO
1232, Makati City, Philippines

Or you may e-mail your text résumé (without attachments please) to recruitment_td@yahoo.com

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LONDON LEARNING CENTER

is in need of the following personnel for its New Manila, Makati, Las Piñas and Baguio branches for SY 2004-2005:

1. DIRECTORS
- male/female
- not more than 35 years old
- BSE / BSED / Early Childhood Education Graduate
- At least 3 years relevant administrative and teaching experience
- PRC license preferred
- Fluent in English language
- With pleasing personality

2. PRESCHOOL TEACHERS
- male/female
- not more than 30 years old
- BSE / BSED / Early Childhood Education Graduate
- At least 2 years relevant teaching experience
- PRC license preferred
- fluent in English language
- with pleasing personality

3. ASSISTANT TEACHERS
- male/female
- not more than 30 years old
- preferably with relevant experience handling children
- with pleasing personality

4. PART-TIME CHINESE TEACHERS
- male/female
- at least 2 years relevant teaching experience
- with pleasing personality

5. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS
- male/female
- at least 2 years experience in bookkeeping and record keeping
- with pleasing personality

Interested and qualified applicants should email their cover letter, resumé and 2x2 pictures to **sa_quito@hotmail.com** or **jekko@yahoo.com**. Indicate in the subject line the position you are applying for and which branch you wish to be assigned to. Deadline for submission of applications is on November 28 (Friday).

A global leader in the semiconductor manufacturing industry is pooling candidates for future expansion. We are inviting highly qualified professionals with experience in semiconductor or electronics industry to apply for the following positions:

Managerial Positions
- Manufacturing Manager
- Manufacturing Project Manager
- Equipment Manager
- Test Product Manager
- Test Development Manager
- Process Manager
- Quality Manager
- IT Manager
- Finance Manager
- Human Resources Manager
- Planning & Logistics Manager
- Accounting Manager
- Cost Accounting Manager
- Technical Training Manager
- Organizational Development Manager
- Compensation Manager
- CIM Manager
- Purchasing Manager
- Production Planning Manager
- Capacity Management Manager

Engineers/Professionals
- Equipment Engineers
- Process Engineers
- Quality Assurance Engineers
- Reliability & Failure Analysis Engineers
- New Product Introduction Engineers
- Test Product Engineers
- Test Development Engineers
- Manufacturing Project Engineer
- Financial Analysts
- Accountants
- Technical Training Officers
- Compensation Officers
- Employee Relations Officers
- CIM Engineers
- Systems Analysts
- Programmers
- Buyers
- Materials Engineers

Technicians
- Preventive Maintenance Technicians
- Line Technicians
- Tool & Die Technicians
- Test Product Technicians
- Loadboard Technicians

Interested applicants may apply online via Jobstreet website by going to the following url address:

POSITION APPLIED FOR	URL ADDRESS
ENGINEERS & TECHNICIANS:	http://siva-ph.jobstreet.com/_ads/ph/jobs/2003/10/default/20/133408.htm
FINANCE & HR PROFESSIONALS:	http://siva-ph.jobstreet.com/_ads/ph/jobs/2003/10/default/20/133447.htm
IT PROFESSIONALS:	http://siva-ph.jobstreet.com/_ads/ph/jobs/2003/10/default/20/133458.htm

Or send your resumé to:

Box # KA-007-03-AD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St.,
Ermita, Manila

KINDERNOTHILFE (KNH)

a German-based child-focused resource organization is in need of a

PROJECT MONITORING COORDINATOR

for the Philippines

to conduct the day-to-day operations of the KNH Monitoring Office, by regularly monitoring the projects being implemented by the Philippine partners and ensure their strict compliance to the Cooperation Agreement with KNH and ensuring efficient information management between KNH-Office and the KNH Head Office in Germany, and between the latter and its partners in the Philippines.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- University Degree in any Social Course
- Minimum of six years experience in senior management in development work
- Ability to work in a cross-cultural team and an understanding of/ experience and commitment to participatory management
- Sound understanding of development and vision for child oriented development and rehabilitation work
- Sound knowledge of NGO approaches and work methodologies
- Demonstrated experience in project/programme planning, review and evaluation using frameworks and tools
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Self-motivated, highly disciplined and able to work independently
- Time management skills and proven work endurance to meet periodic peak workloads and deadlines
- Willing and able to travel

Send in your application via mail or electronic mail with a full CV, including data about your family & latest photo to:

KNH Monitoring Office
51 Mapagbigay St., Central District
1100 Quezon City PHILIPPINES
E-mail: INFO@consulting-team-inc.org

Only applications received by 24 November 2003 will be considered for screening. Only short listed applicants will be notified.

MOLDEX REALTY MARKETING, INC.

a leading real estate company in the country is expanding its personnel and sales network.

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR SALES OPERATIONS
Male or female, 35-40 years old. With 10 years experience in realty sales; minimum of 5 years experience in real estate in a managerial capacity.

SALES OPERATIONS MANAGER FOR VERTICAL PROJECTS
Male or female, with at least 5 years experience in sales and marketing of condominium projects; effective management skills; able to mobilize and motivate an in-house sales force/broker network.

TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT MANAGER
Male or female. Has extensive experience in training and recruitment of sales force; preferably from the real estate industry; has administrative experience in personnel and office administration; people-oriented with leadership and management skills; can design and implement an effective and relevant training and recruitment plan.

TRAINING OFFICER
Male or female, 23-30 years old, preferably a graduate of Psychology or Marketing, with at least 1 year experience in real estate training and with good communication and writing skills; the successful candidate will handle the continuous design of all training modules.

PROJECT COORDINATORS
Male or female, 20 to 30 years old, preferably with 2 years experience in real estate project management; computer literate; creative, with pleasing personality and good PR skills.

ADVERTISING AND PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR
Male or female, 21-30 years old, creative and with good communications and writing skills; must have 1 year experience in project management and administrative work.

GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER
Male, 22-30 years old, with at least 1 year experience in building administration services, service vehicle management and sales-service support.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT
Male or female, preferably a graduate of Statistics, Psychology or Marketing, with at least 1 year experience in field research, preferably in real estate; must be willing to do field work; must be resourceful and results-driven, and should have good writing skills.

MARKETING DIRECTORS
Male or female; with at least 3 years sales experience in real estate; with a ready group of sales directors and sales executives.

SALES EXECUTIVES
Male or female; students, housewives, teachers, retirees with selling skills are welcome to apply.

All applicants are required to submit their resumes to
Training and Recruitment Group
3/F Golden Bay Hotel, 247 Padre Faura St.,
cor. Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila
Tel. No. 522-7777 loc. 158 or 138
or to moldexrecruits@yahoo.com

Moldex
Realty Marketing, Inc.

Due to the urgency of the requirements, applications must be received not later than November 28, 2003.

ADPRO 2003

Looking UP

1322
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The tallest, most prestigious condominium address in Roxas Boulevard

We're looking for

SALES DIRECTORS
- 30-40 yrs. old
- 5 years experience as sales manager

PROPERTY CONSULTANTS
- 21-30 yrs. old, college graduate
- has an extensive network
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- experienced in customer relations
- Chinese-speaking a definite advantage

For those who qualify we offer...
above-industry allowance package, marketing support, training and the best incentive the industry can offer.

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and look for Tere Felix or Sheila Musico
or call us at 522-7777 loc. 126

TeleTech

Your Customer Management Partner

TeleTech, the leading provider in global care solutions for over 20 years is seeking exceptional Call Center Professionals for our Manila Call Center Operation. With global infrastructure support, our operations service broad range of North American clients. The depth of the organization offers the right person the potential to learn, develop, and advance their career.

PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER

This role is tasked with establishing a strategic vision and management of national, regional and local community relations, special events and public relations for TeleTech' s Customer Interaction Centers in the Philippines

Essential Requirements include:
- Bachelors Degree and equivalent experience
- Minimum of 5 years of combined HR and/or communications experience
- Minimum of 2 years professional experience with responsibility for directing community based programs
- Established network in relevant institutions/fields
- Must demonstrate proven results in developing communication programs.
- Demonstrated exceptional communication skills, both verbal and written
- Excellent project management skills.

This position offers attractive remuneration and incentives commensurate with your experience.

Interested applicants are requested to send in their applications to:

Ms. Rosalina Halili
Office Manager
TeleTech Customer Care Management Philippines, Inc.
P.O. Box 1786 MCPO Makati City, Philippines

or thru e-mail: prmanager@ph.teletech.com

WE ARE PEOPLESUPPORT®

12-14F PhilamLife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
29-33F Robinson's Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Unit 6 e-Office 1 Asia Town I.T. Park, Apas, Lahug, Cebu City

PEOPLE**SUPPORT** is a U.S.-based outsourced provider that delivers world-class, multi-channel customer care solutions from mission-critical contact centers in the Philippines.

PeopleSupport (Philippines), Inc. started in March 2000, and is regarded as one of the leading contact centers in the country today with over 1,500 people in its workforce. Currently operating at the PhilamLife Tower, Robinson's Summit Center in Makati, and at the Asia Town IT Park in Cebu.

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• TEAM MANAGERS
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Email your resume to
manilajobs@peoplesupport.com

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY FOR A PERIOD OF 6 MONTHS FROM DATE OF APPLICATION.

For more information,
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PEOPLESUPPORT IS AN INDUSTRY MOVER
We are part of the Contact Center Association of the Philippines (CCAP) and a founding member of the Contact Federation Philippines Inc. (CFPI). In fact, the current Chairman for both organizations is none other than the President of PeopleSupport (Philippines), Inc. - Bong Borja. These organizations give our company, as well as the entire contact center industry, one voice and one stand in ensuring that the Philippines becomes the outsourcing hub of the world. At present the whole contact center industry has provided jobs for thousands of Filipinos and we are not stopping there.

WEBSITES FOR LIBERALS

a project supported by
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Web Developer

We are looking for a dynamic colleague who

- has extensive experience in using latest website development tools
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- is a quick thinker and solution-oriented person
- is a team player

We are offering a three month contract in a pleasant but demanding environment.

Please submit your resumé to:

PO Box 3196, Makati City
or send email to liberal@fnf.org.ph

AQS PHILIPPINES, INC.

* A joint venture between EPS of Singapore and GPI is in need of *

SERVICE ENGINEER

Qualifications:
- Male, 25-30 years old
- Graduate of Chemistry or Chemical Engineering of any reputable school
- Must have minimum experience in the Industrial Water Treatment Application
- Dynamic with pleasing personality.
- Must able to work efficiently even under pressure
- Computer literate

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
- Female, 20-25 years old, single
- With pleasing personality
- Computer literate
- Must able to work efficiently even under pressure

To the qualified applicant, the company offers above the standard salary, commissions and other fringe benefits.

Please send your resumé, together with passport size photo to:

AQS PHILIPPINES, INC.
5th Floor, Fortune Building, 160 Legaspi St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. # 02-811-2413 / 02-8105946 / 02-8100839

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Trend Micro™ Incorporated is a global leader in antivirus and content security software and services. Its solutions protect the flow of information on PCs, file servers, email servers and at the Internet gateway, providing a complete, centrally-controlled VirusWall for enterprise networks.

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BETA PRODUCT TESTING TEAM

MANAGER / TEAM LEADER

The beta test manager develops and fully implements a beta test program. In a small company, this person could be the entire program. In a larger corporation, the beta test manager oversees the operation of multiple tests, people, and projects. The beta test manager ultimately owns the responsibility for a successful test.

Responsibilities:

- The beta test manager is focused on developing and continuously improving the policies and procedures that comprise the total beta test program.
- The beta test manager will supervise and mange the different people, resources and budget to maintain a fully functional beta test operation
- The beta test manager's goal is to define the needs, requirements, and expectations that are needed to perform each beta test.
- The beta test manager should have a good rapport with the many people who are involved with the development of a product.
- The beta test manager is expected to train each beta test employee on the purpose, policies, and procedures of the beta test program, and to make sure that the overall operational quality of the program is exceptional. In addition, the beta test manager should be clear on each person's responsibilities and delegate work appropriately.
- The beta test manager should take leadership on all beta test issues. From the scheduling of tests to the deployment of new technologies into the infrastructure, this manager's role is critical to the success of each project. Providing guidance, the beta test manager guides the program to guarantee a low-cost, highly efficient service.
- The beta manager is responsible for establishing a clear, long-term strategy for beta test. These goals should focus on quality and efficiency while involving some aspect of the company's overall mission. By establishing a strategy, a beta test manager can successfully adapt to growth and maintain focus on the program.
- A beta test manager needs to have the comprehensive knowledge of the complete development process. Beta testing evaluates an entire product. When a beta test manager brings a project into test, he or she needs to understand how the issues discovered in test will impact the different organizations and provide guidance on where to distribute test results within the company.
- The Beta test manager must understand all aspects of the beta test process. If necessary, he or she can run a beta test as well as any of the team. The beta test manager needs to be technical enough to support the company's products and operate the program infrastructure. By being able to handle these issues, the beta test manager can maintain the program when difficult situations arise.

Qualifications:

- The beta test manager should have balance in technical competence, customer service skills, and management experience. Ideally, an effective manager has a varied background and a history of focus on the customer.
- A beta test manager must be fully versed in the technology he or she will support.
- The beta test manager must also be an excellent time manager. Beta testing does not flow on a regular path. The sporadic and constantly shifting nature of the product development process makes running a beta program very unpredictable.
- Being flexible and scheduling projects effectively are key qualifications for a good beta test manager.
- The primary activity of beta testing involves interfacing with the customer. Thus, a beta test manager will have excellent customer service skills with an emphasis on communication.

BETA PRODUCT TESTING TEAM

BETA TEST COORDINATOR

The beta test coordinator is the core of the beta test team. Handling the mundane items such as shipping, software duplication, product distribution, parts ordering, or other simple but time-consuming tasks, the coordinator allows other team members to focus on the important issues during the test. The test coordinator does the "maintenance" that keeps the beta test engine running.

Responsibilities:

- The beta test coordinator assists the beta test engineer in the gathering of materials for test, packages them appropriately for distribution, and then ships to the site. If the site has an issue or is not compliance, the coordinator must arrange to get the product form the customer.
- The coordinator must also monitor the cost to ensure that the department is using the most cost-effective methods possible. In addition, there are numerous laws and regulations involved with some products and their distribution.
- The coordinator must be versed in international software distribution and should be able to address issues quickly.
- Another important responsibility is the monitoring of testing progress and contract compliance of all beta test participants.
- The beta test coordinator also manages the countless administrative aspects of a beta test program. Procurement of everything the department needs and the financial duties associated, the coordinator acts as a department administrator to ensure that the needs of the team are met.
- The coordinator is responsible for the establishment and maintenance of a filling system for beta test documents, legal paperwork, NDA, and other important items.
- Once test participants complete a project, they receive a reward for their efforts. This reward is part of the beta incentive program. The coordinator is responsible for collecting information about the performance of each tester and then distributing a corresponding award.
- The beta test coordinator makes certain the testers have everything they need to perform the test. Contacting each participant throughout the test, the coordinator acts as a secondary liaison for the test.

Qualifications:

- Education or experience is certainly an important qualification for this position. However, the most important for the beta test coordinator is follow through.
- Persistence is a key factor in being a successful coordinator. Test participants are often difficult to contact, unresponsive, or slow to communicate. A successful coordinator is able to balance the rigors of mundane daily tasks with the unexpected nature of a development schedule.

The coordinator mixes skills of a department administrator and project manager. The coordinator should have customer service focus, experience working with the public and excellent communication skills

An advantage if you have an **MS in Computer Science, Electrical Engineering**, or other related discipline and solid knowledge of electronics and basic programming skills. **Five+** years automated software test experience with progressing responsibility on Windows and UNIX technologies required. **Engineering positions** are available as well.

INFORMATION SERVICES (I.S.)

REGIONAL DIRECTOR / DIRECTOR FOR I.S.

Responsibilities:

- Manages the internal information systems functions, including applications, networks, and computer operations.
- Leads the team in analyzing the needs of functional departments in regional level and establishing priorities for feasibility studies, system design and implementation to develop and/or modify the business process and information processing systems.
- Coordinates with functional departments involved in system requirements, technical and project management.
- Co-work with corporate IS departments to feedback to the global team, and ensure the compliance of global disciplines/polices, and deployment of global services.
- Selects, develops and evaluates personnel to ensure the efficient operation of the functions.
- Defines and manages department performance metrics to align with business objectives.

Desired experiences

- 10 years in the IS/IT industry with at least 5 years in the management postion.
- In-depth understanding of business operation (both front and back-office).
- Familiar with both application services (ERP, SFA, etc.) and network infrastructure.
- Hands-on experience in project management and system deployment.
- Good verbal and written English communication skills.

Candidates must possess a **Masters Degree in Computer Science, Information Systems, Information Engineering** or other related discipline.

Kindly email your resume (in Word Format) to recruitment@trendmicro.com.ph or recruitment@support.trendmicro.com. In the event that you meet the minimum qualifications of the position that you are applying for, you shall be contacted the soonest.

Visit our URL at: www.trendmicro.com
Free scan: http://housecall.antivirus.com

Oxfam

Oxfam GB's purpose is to work with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering
Oxfam Great Britain's Philippine Programme needs a

PROGRAMME ASSISTANT TO THE PROGRAMME REPRESENTATIVE

The Programme Assistant supports the Philippine Programme Representative by providing executive, communication and administrative expertise, undertaking specific research work, promoting goodwill in the interaction with Oxfam partners, associates and the general public. He/she will also be working closely with other Philippines programme, finance and services staff.

Key responsibilities:

- Ensure complete and organized filing, safe keeping, maintenance and archiving of programme, administrative materials, databases and other official documents
- Ensure access for staff and visitors to the Office of the Programme Representative by managing and coordinating the PR's diary and daily travel arrangements
- Ensures that the Programme Representative is kept well informed of and respond to key events/issues (both external and internal to Oxfam)
- Maintains good external relations by ensuring a timely and accurate response to inquiries by drafting and sending responses to letters, handling phone calls and where necessary, referring them to the responsible sections of the office
- Ensure complete logistical arrangements for Oxfam sponsored events
- Represent the Programme Representative (PR) at events as instructed

Core Competencies:

- Organized, works effectively, self-managed and achieves results
- Ability to think critically and analytically
- Adaptable, with initiative and flexible

Essential Specifications:

- Knowledge and experience of efficient internal office communications, including an efficient filing system as manifested by attention to details, order, method completion and results
- Excellent written and oral English communication and interpersonal skills, and able to relate to people of all backgrounds
- Ability to manage multiple priorities, work under pressure and to deadlines and with minimum supervision, sometimes in situations of stress
- Good computer skills (Windows, Word, Excel, Access, Internet and email), preparedness to learn computer software packages necessary for office work, especially those relating to programme management and development
- Commitment to Oxfam's GB's overall aims and objectives, including commitment to promoting gender equity in all aspects of work
- Strong partner/associates/general public service orientation

Desirable Specifications:

- High degree of diplomacy and tact
- Willingness to travel as needed
- Knowledge and experience in working in an NGO

Submit application letter with complete CV to:

Human Resource and Administrative Officer
Oxfam Great Britain
95-A Malumanay street
Teachers' Village, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City
FAX: (02) 927-0499; EMAIL: etadeo@oxfam.org.uk

Closing date : 28 November 2003
Interview date : 05 December 2003

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified for the interview.
THE POST IS OPEN TO PHILIPPINE NATIONALS ONLY.

IMMEDIATE HIRING

IN MAKATI OFFICE

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TO OCCUPY VARIOUS POSITIONS IN THE COMPANY.

IF YOU ARE:

- ☑ Energetic men and women of at least 20-38 years of age
- ☑ College graduates of at least a 4-year course from reputable schools and universities
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THEN YOU DESERVE:

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See us in your proper business attire with 2 pcs. (2x2) ID pictures and your comprehensive resumé on November 17 (Monday) to November 19 (Wednesday) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Bring extra ID and the clipping of this Ad.

TSI TOTAL TRANSCRIPTION SOLUTIONS, INC.

Total Transcription Solutions, Inc. (TTSI) specializes in providing medical transcription services to hospitals, clinics and group practice in the United States. TTSI is aggressively building a large network of Medical Transcriptionists to meet the demands of its rapidly growing clientele in the United States, and is currently in need of experienced MTs as well as fresh but qualified candidates to join our December batch of:

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- Experience is NOT a requirement, but an advantage
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- Sound knowledge of correct English grammar and usage
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Willing to be assigned to ANY shift schedule, Mondays thru Saturdays
- Strong sense of team
- Typing speed of at least 35 to 40 words per minute

TTSI offers paid training and guaranteed employment for qualified candidates. Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resumes, transcript of records and certificate of employment to:

Personnel Department
RM 405 4/F Pacific Corporate Center
131 West Avenue, Quezon City
Or e-mail to: hr@totaltranscription.com

Walk-in applicants will NOT be entertained.
Previous applicants need not apply.
Those with pending immigration application need not apply.

A Real Estate Developer is in dire need of a:

PROJECT ACCOUNTANT

with the following qualifications:

- preferably female, between 25 - 35 years old;
- graduate of BS Commerce major in Accountancy, preferably Certified Public Accountant (CPA);
- with at least 2 years experience as project accountant in real estate development;
- computer literate in MS Office;
- fluent in oral and written communication; and
- willing to be assigned in Laguna, preferably living in Calabarzon area.

Please send resumé and pertinent documents to:

Box No. MK-137
c/o Classified Ads Department
Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Atrium of Makati
Makati Avenue, Makati City

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METRO GAISANO

The following positions are open:

OPERATIONS

STORE MANAGERS

Bachelor's degree graduate; minimum of 3 years work experience in same capacity from medium to large scale retail or food chain industry; excellent leadership and interpersonal skills

STORE SUPERVISORS

Graduate of Business course preferred; minimum of 1 year supervisory experience from customer/service industry; team-oriented, with above average communication and leadership skills

FAST FOOD MANAGERS

Graduate of business course preferred; minimum of 1 year supervisory experience from food chain industry; team-oriented, with above average communication and leadership skills

ADS & PROMOTION OFFICERS

Female, Mass Communications graduate; preferably with experience in same capacity or in public relations; personable, articulate and outgoing; ability to profitably relate with customers

MARKETING OFFICERS/ASSISTANTS

Marketing major graduate or any related discipline with relevant work experience; articulate, personable and outgoing; ability to interact effectively with people at all levels

PHARMACISTS & PHARMACY CLERKS

Female, not more than 25 years old; BS Pharmacy graduate; license holder for Pharmacist; alert, with proficiency in oral communication

COOKS/BAKERS

Not more than 38 years old; minimum of 2 years work experience in same capacity from medium to large scale restaurant/bakeshop

PLAIN CLOTHES PERSONNEL

Male, not more than 24 years old, Criminology graduate; responsible, keen and alert; ability to work in shifting schedule

SUPPORT/ADMINISTRATION

BUILDING ADMINISTRATION MANAGERS

Male, licensed Mechanical or Electrical Engineer; minimum of 3 years work experience in building administration and property management; highly organized, results-oriented, with excellent leadership skills

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGERS

Female, graduate of Psychology or Business; minimum of 3 years supervisory experience; solid background in all aspects of HR functions; proficiency in the Labor Code of the Phils.; excellent organization, communication and interpersonal skills

SUPPORT/ADMINISTRATION

MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

Male, licensed Mechanical Engineer; minimum of 3 years work experience in managerial or supervisory capacity; substantial exposure in preventive & corrective maintenance of mechanical equipment from medium to large scale industry; strong leadership, organization and planning skills

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

Male, licensed Electrical Engineer; minimum of 3 years work experience in managerial or supervisory capacity; well-versed in industrial wiring and motor control; strong leadership, organization and planning skills

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATORS

Male, BS Computer Science graduate; minimum of 3 years relevant work experience; solid background in systems programming using AS400, Novell, UNIX, etc.

CADD OPERATORS

BS Architecture graduate; technical knowledge and hands-on experience in planning and designing of interior lay-out for commercial projects; proficiency in AUTOCADD

HRD OFFICERS/ASSISTANTS

Female, BS/AB Psychology graduate or any related discipline; preferably with 2 years exposure in all aspects of HR functions including but not limited to Recruitment, Training, & Employee Relations; pleasant disposition, with excellent planning, communication and interpersonal skills

NURSES

Female, registered nurse; minimum of 1 year hospital exposure; mature, responsible, with ability to work in shifting schedule and with minimal supervision

VISUAL ARTISTS

Fine Arts graduate major in Interior Design; minimum of 1 year work experience in same capacity; proficiency in Corel Draw, Adobe Photoshop/Illustrator and other graphic software applications

COMPUTER TECHNICIANS

Male, Computer Science/Engineering graduate; minimum of 2 years work experience in maintenance & troubleshooting of PCs; systematic and results-oriented

GENSET OPERATORS

Graduate of Mechanical Engineering or related vocational course; technical knowledge and hands-on experience in operating diesel engines with more than 1000hp

ELECTRICAL & RAC TECHNICIANS

Electrical/Refrigeration & Air-Conditioning course graduate; minimum of 1 year exposure in basic electrical works and handling of showcase chillers, freezers and centralized air-conditioning

Qualified applicants may send their application letter, comprehensive resume with 2x2 recent picture and copy of their transcript of records to:

THE HRD Manager
Metro Gaisano
Cebu Business Park
Archbishop Reyes Avenue, Cebu City

e-mail add:
mgaisano@mozcom.com

OR

ISIS - International Strategic Intelligence Solutions
Suite 1104 139 Corporate Center
Valero St., Salcedo Village
Makati City

e-mail add:
aileen.gallinera@strategic.com

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YOUR INDUSTRY.
LEAD BOTH. YOUR MOVE...

We are a leading Human Resource consulting services company, engaged in supporting multinational firms with wide ranging human resource needs for Temporary Staffing, Managed Staffing, Executive Placement, Outsourcing, and Outplacement.

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

Call Center Division:

- Male or Female
- 21-28 years of age
- Graduate of AB/BS Psychology, Human Resource Management or any four-year course
- Must have hands-on & extensive experience in sourcing, target selection
- Good English communication skills
- Preferably with call center experience or must have come from a recruitment firm or employment agency.

Perm Division:

- Male or Female
- 21-28 years of age
- Graduate of AB/BS Psychology, Human Resource Management or any four-year course
- Good English communication skills
- Preferably with experience from a recruitment firm or employment agency with exposure in executive and perm placement.

PROJECT ENGINEER/ BUILDING MAINTENANCE ADMINISTRATOR

- Male
- At least 5 years experience in project management and building maintenance administration (plumbing, mechanical & electrical)
- Must be adept in mechanical design
- Must have hands-on experience in mechanical troubleshooting (machines, generators, climate control, air conditioning, water pump and filtration system, etc.)

ACCOUNTS SPECIALISTS (SALES)

- Male or Female
- Graduate of any business course
- Must have sales presentation skills
- Good English communication skills
- Preferably with experience as account specialist from insurance or realty companies or manpower service industry

SYSTEM/ DESKTOP ADMINISTRATOR

- Male
- 2 to 3 years experience in administering Windows 2000 & desktops in a mixed environment
- Graduate of Computer Science or Computer Engineering
- Good communication skills
- Knowledgeable in Win 2000 server, IIS Back-up procedures, PABX, LAN/WAN environment

RECEPTIONIST/ NURSE PROCTOR

- Female
- Graduate of BS Nursing or any paramedical course
- Must possess good communication skills
- Must have at least 1 year work experience.

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

- Male
- Graduate of any business course
- Good English communication skills
- Preferably must have professional experience in operations of a service or manufacturing industry
- Must have the ability to organize

PLEASE E-MAIL YOUR RESUME TO:
MS. LEN HERNANDEZ
LHERNANDEZ@ADD.COM.PH
FAX NO.: 817-6773
148 PILAR BLDG. 4TH FLR.
AMORSOLO ST. LEGASPI VILLAGE
MAKATI CITY

THE BAKE SHOP

Max's RESTAURANT
Max masarap!

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

at MAX'S BAKESHOP, a proud member of Max's Restaurant Group which is cited as the 2003 Top Restaurant Chain by the National Consumers Quality Awards, for hiring in January 2004

R & D SPECIALISTS

- Graduates of Food Technology or Food Science Education
- Minimum of 3 years relevant experience in research and development gained in a reputable bakery or bakeshop establishment
- Must be willing to be assigned at Max's Bakeshop Plant located at FTI Complex, Taguig, MM

PRODUCTION SUPERVISORS

- Graduates of Food Technology or Food Science Education
- Minimum of 2-3 years supervisory experience in bakery or bakeshop production.
- Must be willing to be assigned at Max's Bakeshop Plant located at FTI Complex, Taguig, MM

We are also in need of the following for our Max's Restaurant HRD Office/branches:

RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS (for HRD Office)

- Male/Female, Psychology graduates, with solid experience in recruitment for all levels of the organization;
- Exposure in restaurant/service industry setting an advantage.
- Must be organized, innovative, & dynamic, with above average written & oral communication skills.

STORE MARKETING OFFICERS

- Male/Female, graduates of marketing or any related courses and are computer literate;
- Have solid experience in LSM (from conceptualization to post evaluation);
- Must have above average communications and interpersonal skills.

BANQUET AND SALES COORDINATORS

- Male/Female, college graduates, preferably of HRM, Tourism, PR, Business Administration, Mass Communication, Marketing, and other related courses;
- Must have a pleasant personality and above average English communication skills.

We also process applications for Busboys/Waiters, Customer Service Assistants, Riders, Cooks, Kitchen Helpers, and Janitors/Dishwashers.

Note: Previous applicants need not apply.

Interested applicants may send their resumes, photocopy of transcript of records and ID photo to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Max's-Scout Tuazon Branch
21 Sct. Tuazon St., Brgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City
E-mail: hrd@maxschicken.com

Accounting Assistant

- with at least 2 years experience in book keeping
- computer literate

Send resumé to:
Marathon Logistics Inc.
Bldg. 5B Panorama Compound
Veterans Center, Taguig, Metro Manila

WANTED
REGISTERED SOCIAL WORKER

- At least 30 years old above
- With experience in working with young adolescents

Apply personally at #17 Brooklyn St., Cubao, Quezon City • Tel. 7279829/4134504
Sister Anna Gabriella or Vicky Astillero

TeleTech
Your Customer Management Partner

TeleTech, the leading provider in global customer care solutions for over 20 years is seeking an exceptional Senior Training Professional for our Regional Operation. With global infrastructure support, our operations service broad range of North American clients. The depth of the organization offers the right person the potential to learn, develop, and advance their career.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF TRAINING AND QUALITY

This strategic role is responsible for implementing an effective training and quality strategy across our regional sites to ensure the ongoing growth and development of our people. This key role plays an integral part in the ultimate success of our organization through the development and delivery of world-class best practices.

Essential requirements for this role include:

- College degree in related field, Master's degree preferred.
- Demonstrated effective Leadership capabilities across multiple teams in various locations
- Proven ability of linking training effectiveness to employee performance.
- Outstanding project management capabilities
- Comprehensive knowledge of quality assurance practices and processes.
- Ability to influence key stakeholders in relation to Training and Quality initiatives.

This position offers attractive remuneration and incentives commensurate with your experience.

Interested applicants are requested to send in their applications to:

MS. ROSALINA HALILI
Office Manager
TeleTech Customer Care Management Philippines, Inc.
P.O. Box 1786 MCPO Makati City, Philippines

Or thru email: tqdirector@ph.teletech.com

What Drives You

The Job:
Email Administrator

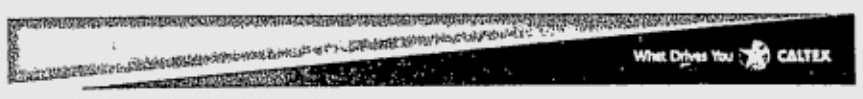
The Person:

- At least six years practical experience in Windows Server administration with current experience in Windows 2000.
- At least six years practical experience in multi-site Exchange administration.
- With experience administering a large distributed mail system with multiple mail servers in multiple countries.
- Experience in BCP and DR scenarios.
- Adept knowledge of SMTP.
- Strong communication and technical writing skills.
- Ability to lead and persuade in a multicultural, multinational virtual team environment.
- Willing and able to travel internationally.
- Should be customer-driven, results-oriented, and a good team player.
- Should be comfortable working in a fast-paced, dynamic work environment.

Working for a diverse and globally competitive company. Caltex (Asia) Limited, a ChevronTexaco company, has a business network that spans the Asia-Pacific region, Africa, and the Middle East. Caltex (Asia) Limited is committed to maximizing a multi-cultural work force and valuing the uniqueness of each individual. Our passion is to achieve results that exceed expectations - - that of our own and those of others.

If you share the same values and passion, you may submit your comprehensive resume to KSearch Asia Consulting, Inc. c/o **Karmeli Kintanar** at the 22nd Floor, 139 Corporate Centre Building, 139 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City; or email to kkintanar@ksearch.com.ph; with fax number at 893-6259. Please indicate the position you are applying for in the email title, or at the upper left hand corner of the envelope.

Closing date is on 28 November 2003.



Caltex is an Equal Opportunities Employer. All information supplied will be treated as strictly confidential for the purpose of selection and recruitment. Only short-listed candidates will be notified; for candidates not selected, we would like to thank you in advance for your interest in a Caltex career. Application letters will be filed for future reference for a maximum of 6 months.

WSI CHECKERING, INC.

2nd Flr., Velco Centre Cor. S. Roberto Oca & Antonio Delgado Sts., Port Area Manila
Tel. Nos. 527-40-74 to 78
Fax Nos. 528-0053 & 521-7432

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANICS
TRUCK TRAILER DRIVERS
FORKLIFT/TOPLIFT OPERATORS

ALL APPLICANTS must have a minimum of 3 years experience
Age should be 20 yrs. old & above

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS FOR ALL POSITIONS MUST APPLY PERSONALLY & BRING THE FOLLOWING:

1. Resumé w/ picture (passport size)
2. Certificate of employment.

AT: WORLD SHIPPING INFONET, INC.
2F RM 255/257 Velco Ctre. Cor Roberto S. Oca & Antonio Delgado Sts.
Port Area, Manila and look for Ms. YVETH P. GUEVARRA

VERMAN ROUY
BUSINESS PARTNERS & ASSOCIATES

A management group which aims to develop individuals to become career oriented professional. Invites competitive and dynamic candidates to the country's leading company.

"We will guide through a stable, sustained and secured future."

URGENTLY NEEDS...

CORPORATE SUPERVISOR
MANAGEMENT TRAINEE

SPECIFICATIONS:

- 20 to 30 years old
- College graduate of any course, preferably in fields of business and communication arts
- With good communication skills
- With good oral and written communication skills
- Can handle managerial and supervisory functions

Specific Competencies: Adaptability, Analytical Thinking, Internal and External Customer Service Orientation, Planning and Organizing

Applicants are required to apply personally with comprehensive resumé with recent photo at:

235C Mercan Bldg.,
EDSA Extension Pasay City
(near saver square mall beside Allied Bank)

INTERVIEW DATE: NOV. 17 - 21, 2003
INTERVIEW TIME: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

LOOK FOR MS. KAT ONG

IMPORTANT: CLIP THIS AD TO YOUR RESUMÉ AND PUT ON THE UPPER LEFT CORNER OF YOUR RESUMÉ CODE: PDI

DO YOU BELIEVE THERE IS NO LIMIT TO WHAT YOU CAN BE?

Earth+Style Corporation is positioned to dominate the real estate middle-income market. Our aggressive outlook in this competitive marketplace necessitates hiring individuals who can positively contribute to our goal of becoming number one in our market.

We invite you to be a part of our journey to success. We offer competitive income and excellent career opportunities to those who seek a performance-oriented and dynamic work environment.

Check out the details below and see how you can be a part of our growing family!

TREASURY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT HEAD

- Shall report directly to the Finance Management Group Head
- Shall manage company's cash flow
- Shall monitor and analyze the company's financial performance indicators
- Shall propose and implement appropriate action plans to improve financial performance of the company
- Shall explore alternative financing methods
- Shall coordinate with Accounting to set financial standards that projects should follow
- Shall coordinate with Central Treasury about finance reports and other requirements

Candidates should be BS Accountancy or BSBA Accounting graduates, preferably CPA. With at least five (5) years experience in treasury management. Candidates should have strong financial and accounting skills, forecasting and planning skills, and resource management skills. Candidates must be highly organized, with good oral and written communication skills, proficient in MS Office, good interpersonal skills, with sense of urgency. Willing to work overtime.

BUDGET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT HEAD

- Shall report directly to the Finance Management Group Head
- Shall be in charge of policy and procedure formulation for accounting, budgeting, forecasting and establishment of clear linkages to financial reporting
- Shall review and analyze current systems and participate in recommending systems and management reporting improvements for management decision making

Candidates should be Accountancy or Finance graduates, must be a CPA. With at least three (3) years experience in a managerial capacity. Candidates must have strong accounting or audit and taxation foundation. Must have experience in policy design and implementation of accounting and reporting systems. Possess strong leadership skills, conceptual and analytical abilities. Must have operational knowledge of the real estate, construction or any similar industry, an advantage.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT OFFICER

- Shall report directly to the Treasury Management Department Head
- Shall analyze and project company's cash flow
- Shall perform operating fund reconciliation
- Shall oversee the selling and buyback of receivables
- Shall oversee on-time payment of interest on buyback of receivables

Candidates should be BS Accountancy or BSBA Accounting graduates, preferably CPA. With at least three (3) years experience in finance/treasury. Candidates should have strong financial and accounting skills, forecasting and planning skills, and resource management skills. Candidates must be highly organized, with good oral and written communication skills, proficient in MS Office, good interpersonal skills, with sense of urgency. Willing to work overtime.

ACCOUNTING/TREASURY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT

- Shall report directly to the Accounting/Treasury Management Department Head
- Shall process disbursements (i.e. invoices, commissions), check validity of expenses, and ensure completeness of documents based on company policies
- Shall check expenses against budget and ensure proper approval process if necessary
- Shall assist in Sale of Receivable Delivery & Process Implementation
- Shall assist in all activities pertaining to accounts for Real Estate Mortgage /Pag-Ibig
- Shall handle Post Dated Checks (PDC) transmittal to banks of sold accounts

Candidates should be BS Accountancy or BSBA Accounting graduates with at least one (1) year experience in general accounting. Candidates must be highly organized, with good oral and written communication skills, proficient in MS Office, good interpersonal skills, with sense of urgency. Willing to work overtime.

VISION Earth+Style shall be the lead provider of property-based residential lifestyle values for the Middle-Income Market.

VALUES Our success is rooted in our core values: COMMITMENT, HAPPINESS, RESPONSIBILITY, INTEGRITY, TRUST IN GOD, UNITY, DYNAMISM & EXCELLENCE.

All applications will be treated in strict confidence.
Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resumes with photographs and credentials to:

EARTH+STYLE
CORPORATION

31/F Orient Square Building, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605 Philippines
Tel: 638-3737 to 43 Fax: 638-3728 or 637-4440
E-mail: news_hire@EarthandStyle.com
Website: www.EarthandStyle.com

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY

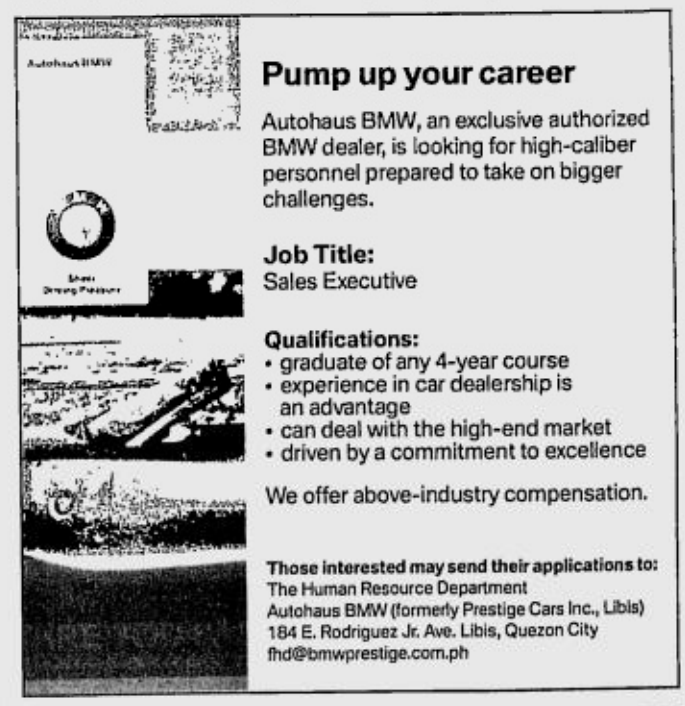
ARE YOU FAST ENOUGH?

Autohaus BMW, the exclusive BMW Motorrad dealer, is looking for high-caliber personnel ready to take on new challenges.

Job Title:
Sales Executive, BMW Motorrad

The successful applicant must have graduated well; have a genuine passion for premium motorcycles; have the attribute of excellence and the confidence to sell the world's leading motorcycles to its high-end target groups. The ability to ride our powerful machinery is desirable, but not necessary as full training will be given. The ability to sell is, however, mandatory!

If you believe you are the qualified for the said position, please send your application to:
The Human Resource Department
Autohaus BMW (formerly Prestige Cars Inc., Libis)
184 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. Libis, Quezon City
fhd@bmwprestige.com.ph



Pump up your career

Autohaus BMW, an exclusive authorized BMW dealer, is looking for high-caliber personnel prepared to take on bigger challenges.

Job Title:
Sales Executive

Qualifications:

- graduate of any 4-year course
- experience in car dealership is an advantage
- can deal with the high-end market
- driven by a commitment to excellence

We offer above-industry compensation.

Those interested may send their applications to:
The Human Resource Department
Autohaus BMW (formerly Prestige Cars Inc., Libis)
184 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. Libis, Quezon City
fhd@bmwprestige.com.ph

CHRISTMAS JOB FAIR
www.DSMAX.com

our north American based company is in need of the goal oriented and highly motivated individuals to fill in various positions:

12 MANAGEMENT TRAINEES **25 SALES ASSISTANTS**
20 FIELD SUPERVISORS **35 PROMODISERS**

EARN 8,000 TO 18,000 MONTHLY

w/ or w/o experience BASIC TRAINING provided NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED
Apply Mon-Fri 11 a.m.-4 p.m. in business attire.
Bring your Resumé or Bio Data with recent 2x2 picture.

apply today... start tomorrow

158-160 Susano St., 6th Avenue
Gracepark, Caloocan City
(in front of Video City)
Tel # 3672215-3672221
Look for NICOLE

5th Floor Olympic Bldg.
#65 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Palanan
Makati City
Tel # 844-86-41 to 42
Look for LANDON

The Chief Executive Officer of a local multinational company is looking for a young

Personal Chef

with the following qualifications:

- With at least three (3) years experience in a reputable restaurant, hotel or clubhouse
- Must be knowledgeable and skillful in menu planning, food preparation, party management from cocktails to sit down dinners for high-level executives and businessmen
- Would be willing to stay in

Interested applicants may send a Letter of Application and Resumé together with a recent 2x2 photograph, on or before 21 November 2003 to:

RND
P.O. Box 1096
Makati Central Post Office
Philippines

NOTE: TELEPHONE QUERIES WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED

NURSES LOVE TEXAS!

HCCA ANNOUNCES A MAJOR AGREEMENT WITH THE DALLAS/FORT WORTH HOSPITAL COUNCIL, REPRESENTING 77 HOSPITALS IN THE EXCITING AND BEAUTIFUL CITIES OF DALLAS AND FORT WORTH, TEXAS.

Would you like to live and work in America? *Let HCCA make you a part of our nursing family in the USA, at absolutely no cost to you.* The opportunity includes:

- Excellent variety of medical facilities
- 500 position openings in next 24 months
- Free and fast H-1B and E-3 US visa processing
- Free reviews, NCLEX and US travel
- US $22 - US$26 per hour plus OT and shift dif.
- US $6,000 bi-annual bonus
- Interviews begin November 17-28

You'll pay no legal fees, no professional fees and no hidden costs. We pay for everything, so you can enjoy an exciting new career in the USA.

To qualify, you must be currently employed in a 150+ bed hospital and be fluent in English. Required documents include: resume, college diploma, transcript of records, board ratings, board certificate, PRC ID, updated employment certificate, birth certificate, passport and marriage certificate, if any, and any results of CGFNS/ NCLEX/ TOEFL/TSE/IELTS exams, plus 4 pcs. 2x2 colored photos.

HCCA INTERNATIONAL

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Apply to the **POEA Government Placement Branch**, windows P & Q, ground floor, left wing, POEA Building EDSA cor. Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong Tel. 722-1174 or 722-1175 or your local POEA office. Applications may also be picked up at **HCCA Makati** offices 33rd/F Tower 1, Enterprise Center 6766 Ayala Avenue corner of Paseo De Roxas, Makati City (63)2 757-1000. Web site. www.hccaintl.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A dynamic fast growing chemical manufacturer based in Pasig City is looking for:

DESIGN AND PROJECT ENGINEER

- B.S. Mechanical Engineering Graduate (pref. Licensed)
- Male, 22-35 years old
- At least 2 years working experience in Manufacturing/Industrial plant & equipment operation
- Knowledgeable in Mechanical/Engineering Design & Equipment repairs
- Knowledgeable in Project Management including Material Estimates, Costing & Scheduling
- Proficient in AUTOCAD (or equiv.) and in generation & interpretation of Technical Drawings
- Possesses strong Leadership, Analytical and Planning skills
- Quality and Result Oriented with capability to work under stress and less supervision
- Exposure to ISO 9000 standards and ISO certified company a good advantage

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- Bachelor of Science Degree graduate, 21-30 years old
- With good interpersonal skills, enthusiastic, pleasing demeanor suited for establishing strong relationship with customers
- Well-verse in oral and written communications
- Proficient in Word Processing, Spreadsheet, e-mail and internet browsing software

SALES SECRETARY

- Graduate of Bachelor of Arts or other related science
- Female, 22-30 years old
- At least 2 years experience in Secretarial job
- Good oral and written English skills
- Very well organized, dependable and trustworthy
- Proficient in Word Processing, Spreadsheet, e-mail and internet browsing software

Please send your application letter with resumé, 2x2 picture and transcript of records to:

Box No. 700
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5th Flr., Bldg. B, SM Megamall
EDSA, Mandaluyong City

DOES A CAREER WITH LIMITLESS OPPORTUNITIES ATTRACT YOU?

Earth+Style Corporation is positioned to dominate the real estate middle-income market. Our aggressive outlook in this competitive marketplace necessitates hiring individuals who can positively contribute to our goal of becoming number one in our market.

We invite you to be a part of our journey to success. We offer competitive income and excellent career opportunities to those who seek a performance-oriented and dynamic work environment.

Check out the details below and see how you can be a part of our growing family!

HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT HEAD

- Shall report directly to the Resource Management Group Head
- Shall ensure preparedness of the organization in adapting to external and internal changes
- Shall develop programs and initiatives for continuing growth of the employees
- Shall ensure competitiveness of the organization in terms of human capital maintenance factors
- Shall ensure compliance with internal corporate identity standards

Candidates must be graduates of Psychology, preferably with Masters Degree. Must have at least 5 years experience in Human Resource Development. Must have excellent communication, analytical, decision-making, planning and leadership skills. Must be proactive, results-oriented and responsive to changing situations.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT TEAM HEAD

- Shall report directly to the Technical Services Group Head
- Shall be responsible for the delivery of projects in accordance with accepted company quality standards within forecasted budget and time
- Shall manage planning and design deliverables of Construction Master Schedule
- Shall orchestrate coordination with consultants, contractors and suppliers by ensuring the strict implementation and compliance with the Construction Management Schedule

Candidates must be licensed Civil Engineers, preferably with Masters Degree. Must have at least five (5) years experience in vertical and horizontal construction development in a managerial capacity. Must have excellent interpersonal relationship skills and high level of integrity.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT OFFICER – PROJECT OPERATIONS

- Shall report directly to the Construction Management Team Head
- Shall implement construction, quality & safety plans and programs of the Construction Management Team
- Shall supervise and monitor all site-related activities by giving sound decisions or solutions to conflicts and various problems which may arise during the course of construction
- Shall perform compliance audit on the contractor's work to ensure quality and timely completion of projects within the approved construction methodology

Candidates should be graduates of B.S. Civil Engineering or Architecture, preferably licensed with at least 5 years experience both in vertical and horizontal construction. Candidates must have knowledge in construction management, surveying works, contract management, estimating, materials and soil testing. He must be adept in MS Projects, MS Word, MS Excel and AutoCAD.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT OFFICER – PROJECT INSPECTION

- Shall report directly to the Construction Management Team Head
- Shall monitor and integrate all construction management processes and deliverables to ensure timely delivery of all projects
- Shall develop Construction Master Schedule
- Shall coordinate with the design consultants to ensure timely delivery of plans and specifications

Candidates should be graduates of B.S. Civil Engineering or Architecture, preferably licensed with at least 5 years experience both in vertical and horizontal construction. Candidates must have knowledge in construction management, surveying works, contract management, estimating, materials and soil testing. He must be adept in MS Projects, MS Word, MS Excel and AutoCAD.

VISION Earth+Style shall be the lead provider of property-based residential lifestyle values for the Middle-Income Market.

VALUES Our success is rooted in our core values. COMMITMENT, HAPPINESS, RESPONSIBILITY, INTEGRITY, TRUST IN GOD, UNITY, DYNAMISM & EXCELLENCE.

All applications will be treated in strict confidence.
Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resumes with photographs and credentials to:

EARTH+STYLE
CORPORATION

31/F Orient Square Building, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605 Philippines
Tel: 638-3737 to 43 Fax: 638-3728 or 637-4440
E-mail: news_hire@EarthandStyle.com
Website: www.EarthandStyle.com

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE STATE COLLEGE OF AERONAUTICS
Villamor Air Base, Pasay City

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Invitation for Application/Nomination for the Presidency of the Philippine State College of Aeronautics will be vacant soon.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

a. Must be a natural born Filipino citizen of the Philippines;
b. Must be a holder of a Master's degree or preferably a Doctorate degree holder;
c. At least five (5) years of managerial and administrative experience;
d. Known for probity and moral integrity; and
e. Preferably 40 years old or over.

Applications should be accompanied with the following:

a. Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
b. Proposed Vision, Mission and Thrusts for the College in five (5) pages; typewritten, double-spaced;
c. Medical Certificate from any government hospital; and
d. Transcript of Records, Diplomas of degrees earned.

In addition to the above-mentioned requirements, applicants must be able to submit the following clearances:

a. Ombudsman
b. Civil Service Commission (CSC)
c. National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)
d. Result of Neuro-Psychiatric examination from any government hospital

Interested applicants are requested to submit six (6) sets of their formal application and supporting documents not later than December 30, 2003 to:

DR. NILO L. ROSAS
Chairman
Search Committee for PhilSCA Presidency
c/o Philippine Normal University
Taft Avenue, Manila
Fax No. (02) 536-64-71

JOB MARKET
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS BUT ONCE.

WANTED

PART TIME SEAMEN'S TRAINING OFFICER

Cotact Mr. Infante T-8232391 e-mail: gai@albargroup.com.ph

DO YOU SEE YOURSELF BEING PART OF A MARKET LEADER?

Earth+Style Corporation is positioned to dominate the real estate middle-income market. Our aggressive outlook in this competitive marketplace necessitates hiring individuals who can positively contribute to our goal of becoming number one in our market.

We invite you to be a part of our journey to success. We offer competitive income and excellent career opportunities to those who seek a performance-oriented and dynamic work environment.

Check out the details below and see how you can be a part of our growing family!

SALES MANAGEMENT TEAM HEAD

- Shall report directly to the Sales Management Group Head
- Shall ensure continuous recruitment, development and management of broker groups and sales organizations
- Shall ensure that costs are maintained and commission expense are achieved on a monthly basis
- Shall ensure long-term, mutually profitable relationship with the sales units
- Shall ensure that the mandated sales requirements are delivered on a monthly, quarterly, and annual basis while ensuring quality of accounts

Candidates must have any business degree. Must be holding a managerial position for at least 3 years in a real estate selling business or in a direct selling industry. Must have a strong sales and marketing orientation, excellent communication, coordination, negotiation and leadership skills.

SALES MANAGEMENT OFFICER

- Shall report directly to the Sales and Marketing Team Head
- Shall prepare and implement sales programs
- Shall ensure that the mandated sales requirements are delivered on a monthly, quarterly, and annual basis while ensuring quality of accounts
- Shall ensure continuous recruitment of sellers to replenish the sales organization of the team
- Shall allocate the mandated sales requirements to the selling units

Candidates must have any business degree. Must be holding a supervisory position for at least 3 years in a real estate selling business or in a direct selling industry. Must have excellent communication, coordination, negotiation and leadership skills.

MARKETING STRATEGY OFFICER

- Shall report directly to the Marketing Strategy Department Head
- Shall conduct market research and analyze the sale environment
- Shall ensure that the mandated sales requirements are delivered on a monthly, quarterly, and annual basis while ensuring quality of accounts
- Shall ensure continuous recruitment of sellers to replenish the sales organization of the team
- Shall allocate the mandated sales requirements to the selling units

Candidates must have any business degree. Must be holding a supervisory position for at least 3 years in a real estate selling business or in a direct selling industry. Must have excellent communication, coordination, negotiation and leadership skills.

TRAINING RESOURCE OFFICER

- Shall report directly to the Training Resource Department Head
- Shall conduct Training Needs Analysis (TNA) and develop the needed appropriate program
- Shall develop module/program that will cater to professional and personal advancement of brokers and agents
- Shall conduct regular classroom and/or off-site sales training programs to brokers and agents

Candidates should be graduates of Communication Arts, Marketing or Psychology preferably with sales/teaching or training experience. Must have knowledge in training programs development. Must have excellent communication skills, familiar with adult-learning principles and adept with computer applications.

VISION Earth+Style shall be the lead provider of property-based residential lifestyle values for the Middle-Income Market

VALUES Our success is rooted in our core values. COMMITMENT, HAPPINESS, RESPONSIBILITY INTEGRITY TRUST IN GOD, UNITY, DYNAMISM & EXCELLENCE

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EARTH+STYLE CORPORATION

31/F Orient Square Building, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605 Philippines
Tel: 638-3737 to 43 Fax: 638-3728 or 637-4449
E-mail: news hire@EarthandStyle.com
Website: www.EarthandStyle.com

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY

Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor Mindanao, Inc. BWSC

JOB OPPORTUNITY

FOR **1st/2nd Marine Engineer License**
Licensed Mechanical Engineer

We are in urgent need of personnel for Power Barge 118 at Maco, Compostela Valley with the following qualifications:

2nd Engineer Position

- Experience in 2-stroke or 4-stroke diesel engines
- Has ocean-going vessel experience or work experience from diesel power plants
- Ages 30-40 years old
- Excellent in verbal and written English
- In good health and of good moral character

Job Description:
Daily work operation of 100MW diesel power plant equipped with 2 x 12K90MC-C diesel engines.

Mechanical Fitter Position

- Experienced in 2-stroke or 4-stroke diesel engines
- With Fitter/Mechanic work experience from diesel power plant or ocean-going vessel
- Ages 30-40 years old
- Excellent in verbal and written English
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'Management by example' keeps 'house that fried chicken built' happy

By Candy G. Villanueva

HR FOCUS

WHEN asked why he chose human resources management as a career, without hesitation he quips, "Why not?" Indeed Max's Restaurant's Human Resources Manager, Rolando Martin, has every reason to make HR his "obsession."

Known as "the house that fried chicken built," Max's Restaurant has always been synonymous to good food and family celebrations. Over 57 years of frying golden brown tender, juicy and crispy chicken, Max's Restaurant is, according to Martin, "the epitome of excellence in human resources." Like a proud father, Martin tells how the company has embraced him and several hundreds of employees as part of the family.

"Each employee is really treated as a family member by the very owners themselves. The deep respect we have for each other is really a deep-seated core value which the owners of the company have inculcated in our hearts and minds." As human resources manager cum training manager, Martin is one of the unifying forces that keeps the Max family together.

> 'I have always believed in the power of positive example. Values are not taught; they are caught'

Education, experience

Spanning 24 years in the human resources arena, mostly in multinational organizations, Martin started his career as a personnel clerk and rose through the ranks to become the training and employment supervisor for Armco-Marsteel Alloy Corp. After the steel manufacturing company, he further delved into the HR business with Philippine Global Communications, then, to American Microelectronics, Inc. He stayed briefly with Philips Semiconductors before he went to work in Max's Restaurant.

Martin does not rest his laurels on his vast experience alone. Intensive training and excellent education also brought him this far. He boasts of attending over a hundred courses, seminars and learning sessions on productivity, training management and leadership courses here and abroad.

Still, the learning does not stop. Martin holds a degree in Bachelor Arts major in Psychology from the National College of Business and Arts, Manila, (NCBA). Currently, Martin is a thesis away from earning his master's degree with a major in Guidance and Counseling at De La Salle University.

Example

As HR manager, it is Martin's job to keep the chicken fryers and the friendly waiters of Max's Restaurant happy. Aside from working to keep employee morale and motivation high, Martin is also responsible for recruitment, selection and placement, the performance management system, employee relations and discipline, and salary and benefits administration.

Martin keeps the employees happy by applying MBE or "management by example." He explains, "I have always believed in the power of positive example. As the cliché' goes, 'Values are not taught, they are caught.'" He adds, "I do my very best to consistently practice what I teach or preach. I strive to consistently 'walk the talk.'"

Martin goes on to say that, character and competence are critical to MBE practitioners like him. "In any kind of work or profession, those with character and competence achieve lasting success."

Work principles

An HR veteran, Martin learned several invaluable lessons from his more than two decades in this field. The road to the top may be quick but not exactly smooth. "One of my most painful but meaningful learning in the HR profession is that, it is always right to do what is right, no matter how unpopular you become," Martin recollects. "With your character intact, professionalism always pays. Eventually, you will win the hearts and minds of your detractors."

ROLANDO Martin, the HR manager that fried chicken made happy — PHOTO BY RUDY ESPERAS

Martin works and lives his life guided by principles. According to him, principles are "fundamental truths and universal laws."

Although a self-confessed workaholic, Martin strives to look at work with a sense of wit and fun. With the load of work HR demands on this manager, Martin gets by with a little humor. "When people get too serious, they end up in the ICU of their favorite hospital, " Martin jokes.

An obvious lover of quotes and wordplays, Martin urges the young to "be a doer, not a talker." For him, there are only two types of employees, the hard workers and the hardly working. A stickler for punctuality, Martin believes that time is a priceless commodity. "Do not be a 'frat member.' *Huwag frating* late (don't always be late)," Martin manages to say with a straight face.

Inspiration

Drawing inspiration from his parents, Martin goes by the adage, "Success is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration." Martin proudly relates that despite being grade school undergraduates, his parents were able to raise and send all 14 children to school through hard work and sheer determination alone. From their example, he derived these life lessons: "Get the best job you are capable of doing. Prove yourself and you will certainly reap the fruits of your labor, that is," Martin adds, with a hint of humor in his eyes, "if you really gave it your best shot."

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Excellent written and verbal communications skills
Must be a team player
Willing to be assigned in Alabang, Pasig or Libis

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- With strong bookkeeping and auditing background
- M/F 25-45 years old

HR OFFICER
- Must have an experience in benefits, (SSS, Philhealth)
- M/F 22-35 years old

Applicants may send or come personally at:
Stall 501-504 Sirloin Street Bldg. 5
FTI Complex Taguig, Metro Manila
Telefax No.: 836-4901 / 838-4675

path Coastal Resource Management Specialist

Qualifications:
- Degree in Marine Science or Social Science with Coastal Resource Management experience (MA preferred)
- NGO or community-based organization field experience
- Strong skills in community organizing, training, IEC materials development, policy/advocacy, community-based CRM activities (MPA, CBFMA, etc.)
- Experience in interacting with Local Government Unit counterparts
- Demonstrated strong interpersonal skills requiring diplomacy and cross-cultural sensitivity; well organized, adaptable to changing priorities, willing to travel

For more information on PATH Foundation Philippines, Inc. and IPOPCORM, visit us at: http://www.path.org/philippines/about.htm. Send letter of intent and CV by December 15, 2003 to PATH Foundation Philippines, Inc. Fax No. 845-3182 or email pathphil@path.org. No phone calls please.

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- Female, not more than 35 years old
- Active, hardworking and creative
- Computer skilled (on excel and internet)

Requirements:
- Resumé with latest picture
- Transcript of records
- Police or NBI clearance
- Certificate of employment

For inquiries visit or call Hamada Ent. at P. Zamora Street, Sta. Maria, Bulacan. Tel. No. (044) 641-2948 and look for Rose.

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FOOD CHEMIST
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- not over 32 years old

Call 416-2962

APPLY ASAP!!!
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- Can handle management function

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BUYER/PURCHASING OFFICER
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- Industrial/Mechanical Eng'r Grad
- Preferably with 1-2 years purchasing experience
- Good interpersonal, communication & writing skills
- Adept knowledge of computer application

QA MANAGER
- Licensed Chemical Eng'r.
- Not more than 35 years old
- With experience in setting up quality control systems, ISO 9001/9002 systems
- Good leadership, communication & writing skills

TECHNICAL TRAINEE
- Mechanical/Electrical Eng'r Grad
- Male; 22-28 years old
- Preferably with experience in can mfg or lithography

Tel. 631-9995/746-1286
Address: #2 San Lucas St.,
Bo. Kapitolyo, Pasig City

SECURITY MANAGER/SECURITY OFFICER
Male
(Newly) Graduate of any course
5'8" in height
Computer Literate
With good communication skills
Driving skills

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
Accounting Graduate / Female
With at least 1 year experience in related position

RECEPTIONIST
College Graduate / Level
At least 5'3" in height
With pleasing personality

Interested applicants may bring their comprehensive resumé at:
SPECTRUM SECURITY SERVICES, INC.
239 Col. Santos Street,
South Cembo, Makati City
Tel. 883-22-08

big R Supercenter

NOW HIRING for Angeles!

Department Heads
Responsible for the execution of company objectives, achievement of sales and profitability targets, while ensuring the highest level of operation efficiency. Must have minimum 2 years retail experience, at least 26 years old with good interpersonal, organization and planning skills. Analytical, customer-oriented and can relate well with all levels in an organization.

Section Heads
Responsible for inventory and stock management, scheduling, sales forecasting and visual merchandising. Will also be tasked to motivate and maintain an effective and productive team. Must be willing to work a schedule of rotating shifts and weekends. Customer-oriented with excellent leadership, interpersonal and communication skills. Fresh graduates of any business course willing to undergo training are welcome to apply as **Manager Trainees.**

HR Officers
Main responsibility is to assist the HR Manager in ensuring the effective performance of store Human Resource functions in the areas of Recruitment and Selection, Employee Relations, and Benefits Administration. Those with 1-2 years relevant experience in HRMD are preferred.

Store Logistics Officer
Main responsibility is to ensure the efficient and consistent flow of inventory while supervising a team of warehousing and receiving personnel. Those with experience in stock control, warehousing and receiving, gained in a consumer retail environment an advantage. Must be customer-oriented, with a sense of ownership, a keen eye on product quality an advantage.

Technical Support Staff
The ideal candidate must have knowledge in troubleshooting of different brands of PC, workstation, servers, printers and Local Area Network. Must also proficient in Windows NT/2000 server. Exposure in any platform of POS retail applications is an advantage.

Store Visual Artists
Must be a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Architecture/Interior Design or Fine Arts, at least 23 years old. Knowledge in Corel Draw 9.0 and AUTOCADD 2000 an advantage. Creative, organized, and results-oriented.

Accounting/Audit Staff
Must be a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy. Must be highly analytical and hardworking.

Interested Applicants may submit their Resume', with Application Letter and 2 x 2 colored Photo by:

Mail : HRMD P.O. Box 13928 Ortigas Post Office
Emerald Ave., Pasig City
Email : HRMD@bigr.com.ph

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Interested applicants please inquire or submit your resumé to:
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Telefax: (02) 881-6700; Website: www.traceplacement.com.ph
Email: inquiries@traceplacement.com.ph POEA License No. 016-LB-032003-PL

Foster Parents Plan International, Inc., also known as **Plan,** is a humanitarian, child focused, international organization. Worldwide, Plan operates in 45 developing countries. In the Philippines, Plan implements community-based development activities in 600 barangays and 9 Programme Units.

Plan works with partners including children, families, communities, government and non-government organizations to achieve lasting improvements in the quality of life of disadvantaged children through the implementation of integrated child-centered community development programmes. Currently, Plan is in need of a:

PROGRAM UNIT MANAGER
(for Southern Leyte Program Unit)

The Program Unit Manager (PUM) provides overall direction and management of all the Program Units' (PUs) programs and operations. The PUM leads and develops the staff towards achievement of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP).

Responsibilities of the position include:

- Designing and managing long and medium term plan that respond to the needs of the community, Plan's vision, mission and goals and the CSP
- Managing and developing PU staff
- Instituting control, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure PU activities are in line with CSP and existing rules and regulations
- Managing the PUs sponsorship plans, including technical guidance on both sponsorship and grants funded project and programs ensure alignment of all PU activities to the community development plans and Plan's strategic direction and CSP
- Maintaining and expanding linkages at the regional and provincial levels
- Attending to mandatory and administrative requirements

Required qualifications:

- Graduate of a 4 or 5 year university course or its equivalent preferably with a thorough knowledge in the areas of social science, social development or its equivalent
- At least 5 years experience working in development organizations. Work with international NGOs an advantage
- Minimum 3 years experience in leadership/managerial position
- Demonstrated good track record in managing and being directly accountable for about $1 million budget
- Demonstrated good track record of experience in at least 2 of the following: program development/management, sponsorship communication, technical support and human resource management
- Ability to influence people and liaise with other organizations at all levels
- A demonstrated commitment to work with the poorest community

A competitive remuneration package plus a career growth opportunity with one of the world's largest international development agencies await the successful candidate.

Interested applicants are requested to submit their letter of application with their comprehensive resume not later than November 16, 2003 addressed to:

The Country HR Manage
PlanPhilippines
MCPO Box 1875 Makati City, 1258
e-mail: emma.cruz@plan-international.org
Only qualified applicants will be notified

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

PRODUCT MANAGER (Toilet & Bath Accessories)
- experienced in the marketing of taps and fittings as well as toilet repair products and bath accessories
- familiar with the DIY industry and other hardware outlets
- a good team leader, must be able to get the best out of the company's other operating departments

PRODUCT MANAGER (Architectural & Building Fixtures)
- with adequate experience and know-how in marketing to the construction industry, specifically to architects, contractors, etc.
- preferably with exposure to door and window sealants, closers etc. and experience in handling glass and aluminum building components

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR
- preferably but not necessarily a CPA; computer literate
- with auditing experience and exposure to multiple product lines
- ability to speak Chinese , an advantage

HRD SUPERVISOR
- proficient in the formulation of personnel policies and procedures fitted to specific personnel categories and tasks
- familiar with labor laws affecting all aspects of employment
- experienced in recruitment and training processes
- can command respect of the rank and file

Send your Bio-Data with recent photo to

Box # KA-009-03 DB
Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St.,
Ermita, Manila or to e-mail: daveb822@hotmail.com

CONSOLIDATED BUILDING MAINTENANCE, INC.
A Building Service Contractor

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- Must process strong analytical skills and knowledge in different computer applications

II. LICENSE CHEMICAL ENGINEER
- Female, 30 years old and above
- At least three (3) years experience in the formulation and production of cleaning chemicals, waxes and other cleaning solutions

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Please send your resumé
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or at
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DIGITAL CROWN HOLDINGS, INC.
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- Proficient in verbal and written communication
- Highly computer literate with adequate presentation skills.

ADMINISTRATION EXECUTIVE OFFICER
- Male / Female, 40 yrs. old below
- College Graduate
- At least 2 yrs. working experience in administration supervision
- With excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Computer literate.

Please fax or email your resumé ASAP
Tel. No.: 638-93-68
Fax No.: 638-93-66 (Attention to April)
Email: april@dchl.com.tw

SALES MANAGER

Qualifications
- Experienced in handling ECR/POS Sales
- Capable of building a strong sales team
- Computer Literate
- With a good track record in commercial and dealer sales

Applicants must send their complete resumé with picture to P.O. Box 1547 Makati CPO

Accounting Assistant
- with at least 2 years experience in book keeping
- computer literate

Send resumé to:
Marathon Logistics Inc.
Bldg. 5B Panorama Compound
Veterans Center, Taguig, Metro Manila

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Gospel: Mk. 13:24-32

In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that he is near, at the gates. "But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

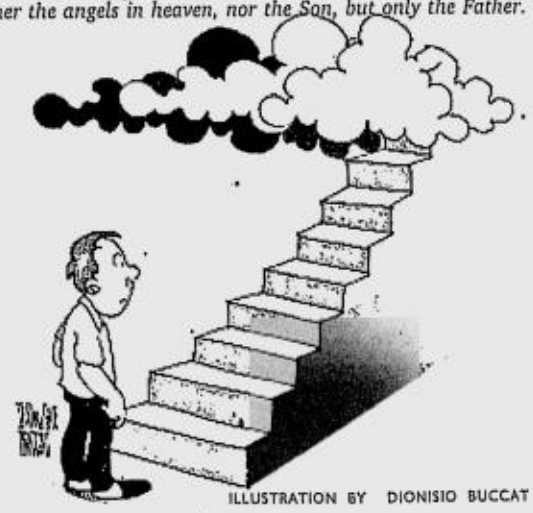

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Staying awake

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

READING today's gospel, I was attracted by the words 'see' and 'know.' Together, seeing and knowing lead to awareness. Now, that cannot be taken for granted in the workplace. If you're half-asleep at work, you're bound to get into trouble sooner or later. Imagine if your job required you to handle a power saw—you would want to stay sober and focused, or risk losing your fingers with one wrong move! Even if it's just a fax machine you're operating in the office, you could send a sensitive document to the wrong party if you're absentminded! And even when your job calls for purely decision making, if you're not completely aware of what's going on, your moves could be misguided.

Knowing the value and purpose of your work helps you to want to remain sober and focused while at it. Thus, no partying "to death" during weeknights, because hangovers will keep you from being awake and aware. If you want your job to take you to the end you envision, you give your all to it, day after day, because at work—as in life—no one can tell when the end will come.

For job satisfaction without limits, consider following Jesus' work style. Jesus spent his life doing good, working nonstop—but that's not saying He was a workaholic. A workaholic is emotionally dependent on his work, but Jesus depended only on The Father for whom He would make time each day. Thus, He was kept aware, seeing and knowing, and making decisions that would bring the most good for the most number of people, including you and me. *(Email the author at* avemaria@csi.com.ph.*)*

Your life story

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

DURING a program celebrating my 50th birthday, I saw a presentation about my life. It featured important and significant moments of my existence, particularly those that could inspire others and could give them better knowledge of me. It showed also the different assignments and works that I've had in the past 50 years. It led me to reflect that if this were the end of my life, would I be happy to present the story of my life to God?

Jesus reminds us in today's gospel about the end, that of the world and our life in this world, which only the Father knows when. He seems to suggest that we prepare for such event so that we will not be scared about it. Spending time to think about the end of our life will definitely help us to review our priorities in life and work in such a way that will prepare us to render an account to our Creator with joy and satisfaction.

Considering that we spend much of our time here on earth working, we should work in such a way that we please not our human bosses, others, or even ourselves but the one who has given us life and strength to do our work. We work uniting our thoughts with Jesus. We do our jobs, as Jesus did everything, in obedience to the will of the Father. We pray to Our Father in heaven, as Jesus taught us, that His "will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Then, we shall have made our workplace a set where we produce the most inspiring movie of our life which will not only move others to praise the Creator but, which will also make the Heavenly Father Himself applaud with great delight. *(Email the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net.*)*

How do you build self-esteem?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I've recently started a new job that's got me tied up in knots. My coworkers have not been welcoming. Some act as if they could do my job better than I can. I like the work (and the salary) but the longer I stay here the less confident I feel.
Down and Almost Out

Your email reminded me of Mohammed Baddy, an Egyptian lawyer who made headlines recently for his lawsuit against President Clinton. Baddy sued Clinton over the name of his dog. Baddy claimed that by naming the first pooch "Buddy," it made him, Baddy, the butt of jokes, and that he suffered an extreme loss of dignity as a result. Egyptian courts probably didn't help his self-esteem by throwing out his lawsuit.

Attacks to your self-esteem happen all too often on the job today. But rather than spending energy pointing fingers, it's better to learn strategies that will keep you sane, no matter what is happening around you. I've listed some strategies below. You'll find more in Noa Davenport's book, "Mobbing" (Civil Society Publishing, 1999).

Do you isolate yourself? When things start to go bad at work, many of us act like we're in the old West—we circle the wagons. Whether for reasons of time, technology or trust, we become slaves to the internal, and increasingly negative, voices in our heads. How do you break this cycle? Take the time to connect with people during coffee breaks, lunches and phone calls.

Do you get sucked into other people's games? There are lots of people playing games at work (it's the top complaint according to surveys we've done at WorkingWounded.com). Always try to keep your distance from anyone who consistently lets the air out of your tires.

Do you occasionally pamper yourself? Work is tough, so it's important to find ways to boost your spirits (without hitting the spirits). A nice lunch, a massage, or splurging on a book or CD are great places to start.

Do you think about yourself in positive terms? People you work with probably provide all the negative energy you need. That's why you need to accentuate the positive. A woman I know keeps a victory file of nice letters she has received and she leafs through it whenever work is getting her down. Figure out your own strategies to keep positive in a less than positive work environment.

Do you maximize the time you spend with people who value you? There's an old saying: "love thy neighbor but pick thy neighborhood." I couldn't agree more. I'd even consider taking a cut in pay just to be around people who respect and value my contributions. Look for projects that will bring you into contact with people who have a positive impact on you.

Other people CAN take a bite out of your self-worth—if you let them. But you're barking up the wrong tree if you forget that self-esteem is, first and foremost, your own responsibility.

Poll results

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABC news.com poll: What is the biggest threat to your self-esteem at work?

—Your coworkers or customers, 23.5%
—Your boss, 35.9%
—Yourself, 40.4%

This week's entry from the furthest away came from a pediatrician in El Salvador. While the winning strategy for maintaining our self-esteem came from S.P. in cyberspace. "Don't take everything personally. You have no idea what could be going on with another person—his boss may have just handed him his head on a platter regarding a matter that has nothing to do with you. People wear their moods on their faces if not their sleeves. If you determine that the ire you just encountered really was uncalled for, you can speak with the offender in a non-combative way to help clear the air. Ninety percent of the time, people have no idea how much of their bad mood is leaking into their behavior. It certainly beats getting ticked off and stomping around in your own bad mood. Don't give those people that much power."

(Email author at bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

PEACE CORPS/PHILIPPINES

U.S. Peace Corps/Philippines Training Unit is recruiting **LANGUAGE STAFF, TECHNICAL COORDINATORS, ADMINISTRATION STAFF,** and **GENERAL SERVICES/UTILITY MAN** for a minimum of 3 months Personal Services Contract beginning January 5, 2004 to April 15, 2004 and future trainings.

LANGUAGE STAFF POSITIONS

Available positions include:

- ☐ Language Coordinator
- ☐ Language Instructors
- ☐ Assistant Language Coordinator

- Native speaker for any of the Philippine languages in Regions 1 – 8;
- Proficient in English and Tagalog;
- Graduate of a four-year course preferably with a technical background in education or community development;
- Demonstrated cross-cultural communication skills
- Willing to undergo intensive training in language teaching, technical and cross-cultural awareness;
- Willing to work 2-3 months in any region;
- Understanding of the Adult Learning Model and Experiential Education techniques;
- Hardworking, responsible, flexible and a good team player;
- Teaching experience preferred but not required;
- Computer literate;
- Previous experience as a Language Instructor is a plus.

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR POSITIONS

A Technical Coordinator is responsible for the planning, implementation, coordination and evaluation of a specific technical component of training. The successful candidates will be responsible for preparing Peace Corps trainees in the assigned technical area.

Qualifications:

- A degree and three years work experience in one of the following technical areas:
  - ☐ Business Advising for Youth Development
  - ☐ Conservation of Biodiversity Areas
  - ☐ Coastal Resources Management
  - ☐ Water and Sanitation
- Proficient in English and Tagalog;
- Computer skills
- Understanding and experience with participatory community development procedures;
- Demonstrated cross cultural communication skills;
- Willing to participate in a Training of Trainers course
- Willing to work for 2-3 months in any region;
- Understanding of the Adult Learning Model and Experiential Education techniques;
- Hardworking, responsible, flexible and a good team player;
- Teaching experience preferred but not required;
- Previous experience as a Peace Corps Trainer is a plus.

TRAINING ADMINISTRATION STAFF

Available Positions include:

- ☐ Deputy Project Director
- ☐ Administration Coordinator
- ☐ Host Family Coordinator
- ☐ Asst. Administrative Coordinator
- ☐ Training Secretary

Qualifications:

- Graduate of a four-year course and three years relevant work experience.
- Proficient in English and Tagalog;
- Excellent computer skills;
- Demonstrated cross cultural communication skills;
- Willing to participate in a Training of Trainers course
- Willing to work for 2-3 months in any region;
- Understanding of the Adult Learning Model and Experiential Education techniques;
- Hardworking, responsible, flexible and a good team player;
- Previous experience with Volunteer training and administration a plus.

GENERAL SERVICES UTILITY MAN

Qualifications:

- Holder of a professional driver's license;
- High school graduate with three years driving experience;
- Proficient in English and Tagalog;
- Excellent driving skills;
- Willing to work for 2-3 months in any region of the Philippines;
- Hardworking, responsible, flexible and a good team player;
- Previous experience with Peace Corps a plus.

Interested candidates may send an application letter indicating the position you are applying for, your qualifications, and a resumé to this address: U.S. Peace Corps/Philippines Training Unit, House #12 Patio Madrigal Compound, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City 1300. The closing date for applications is November 24, 2003. Selected candidates will be contacted for an interview to be scheduled in December.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

FINANCIAL ANALYST

A foreign assistance organization has an immediate need for a FINANCIAL ANALYST. The incumbent will serve as a Financial Analyst in the Financial Management Services Division, Office of Financial Management, with responsibility to providing financial management support services to one or more Strategic Objective Teams of the organization. Work requires financial analysis and evaluation of activities; preparation of budgets, providing financial advice to client. Mission management and its Development Partners (i.e., Host Country Government officials, Grantees, Contractors and other Implementing Entities), monitoring financial progress and resources of activities, and providing liaison services for audit activities. In addition, the work entails providing of professional accounting services and internal "self-audits" of both program and administrative operations for the organization. A degree in accounting, financial management, or business administration is required. CPA or its equivalent is desired. Four to six years of responsible experience in professional accounting, auditing or financial management, preferably with at least one year of this experience with an international organization.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan is offered.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resumé **not later than November 21, 2003** to:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

WANTED

A Promising, Motivated Programmer & A Secretary

Requirements:

- Should be able to form up & maintain Co.'s homepage.
- Must have certain period of working experience for more than 2 years in web field.
- Should be responsible, punctual & friendly
- Send Bio-data and NBI Clearance

Contact us for further information:
@897-1803 or 2162
Cellphone no. 09167842056
Look for Mr. Yolk
Unit 103, Sunnette Tower,
Durban St., Makati Ave.
Makati City
yalk49@yahoo.com

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL - PHILIPPINES

Conservation International - Philippines, an international biodiversity conservation organization, is seeking an Executive Assistant who will provide professional full time administrative backstop support to the Executive Director. Candidates for this position should be a good team player, technically well-rounded, and capable of interacting well with both administrative and technical staff as well as local and international partner institutions and consultants. S/he will support the Executive Director and work closely with the senior management team in programmatic development, intra-institutional interaction, fundraising, and reporting on CI's conservation work in the Philippines. This position, based in Manila, reports to the Executive Director and has no line or management function.

This position will also assist the Executive Director and senior staff to articulate a long-range biodiversity conservation "vision" for the Philippines program and to support its implementation. Represent the Executive Director in meetings, functions, and events whenever the Executive Director or appropriate senior staff may not be available. As needed, assist the Executive Director and senior staff in project development and in raising funds to support CI Philippines programs. Manage calendar of activities and keeps the Executive Director informed of appointments, meetings, events, urgent email and reporting deadlines. Provide Secretariat support for meetings and workshops convened by the office of the Executive Director. Provides other administrative support to the Executive Director, e.g., drafting communications, travel arrangements, expense reports, etc. Carry out other duties as necessary.

Qualifications: Minimum Bachelor's degree relevant to biodiversity conservation and/or 3 years experience in biodiversity conservation or a relevant field, Superior English writing and speaking skills, Competence in computer software including Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Project Manager, Familiarization with Project Cycle, LOGFrames, Monitoring and Evaluation Systems.

Competencies/Characteristics: Familiarity with the major biodervisity conservation issues in the Philippines, Creative problem solving skills, Impeccable diplomatic skills and personal discretion, Highly developed communication skills, including listening, speaking and writing, Ability to perform well under pressure, Flexibility/adaptability, Healthy sense of humor.

Please send resumés to:

Allan Espiritu
Conservation International
5 South Lawin Avenue
Philam Homes, Quezon City, Philippines
aespiritu@conservation.org.ph

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A Real Estate and Development Company is in need of a

SECRETARY

- Female, 26-30 years old
- College graduate
- At least 3 years secretarial experience
- Competent in MS Office
- Excellent communication skills in English and Filipino
- Net salary of P15,000 mo.

Please send resume with recent photo to:
Nova Structura, Attn.: Bambi Cuerva
29/F Tower I The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City 1226

Mahatma Gandhi International School

On its second year, this thriving new school is looking to recruit additional teachers for school year 2004-05. Vacancies exist for:

- Elementary School Teachers (Kinder -Grades 6)
- High School Teachers

Our team of excellent staff is sourced from local and expatriate backgrounds. If you think that you have the qualifications, experience and qualities required to succeed in this environment then we would like to hear from you.

Applicants are requested to send a CV and a letter of application together with a recent photo, stating clearly the post applied for to the address given below. All applicants should be fluent in written and spoken English and hold a relevant degree, preferably with IB Primary Years and Middle Years Program experience. Applicants for teaching posts are also required to provide a brief statement of their educational philosophy.

Please post applications to:

Mr. Lawrence M. Buck, Headmaster ,
Mahatma Gandhi International School,
3270-A Armstrong Ave., Merville Annex Road, Pasay City M.M.
Applications may also be emailed to mgischool@hotmail.com

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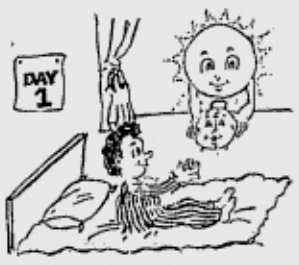
Sunday PEOPLE at WORK

Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Time is a precious gift

By Teresa R. Tunay
Illustrations by Rolando Reyes

HAVE you ever thought how valuable time management is at work and in life? Like air, sunlight, water, life itself and so many other vital things we tend to take for granted, time is a gift—given freely for us to use as we deem best. How do you use this precious gift at your disposal?



1

Each morning as you wake up, do you decide to make a friend of time? To make it work for you instead of making yourself a slave to it?

2

Especially for people with so much to do, time is regarded as a race with the clock, and only when we hear of friends or dear ones dying do we get to pause and reflect upon the value of time's passing in our life.

3

Another instance we are compelled to get off the race and to relax is when we fall ill. When we're virtually chained to a hospital bed we are forced to be idle, and we discover that life can sometimes be better without rushing about.

4

One place it's so easy to waste time is at work. The bundy clock is no guarantee that we will use our time wisely. There are those who fritter work hours away by worrying about other things like money or nasty neighbors.

5

Then there are people who can't seem to begin working until they get every pain off their chest, bothering coworkers and demanding to be listened to as the workday starts.

6

There's also the "resident news reporter"—a walking tabloid who thinks she is brightening coworkers lives with her gossip; until you learn how to brush her off, she will continue to waste YOUR time buzzing around.

7

Good time-management means knowing not only how much time each task takes but more so, knowing your own unexamined habits that keep you forever running after time. In order to avoid being stressed out by time pressure, take note of the following tips:

· Before you go to bed, plan the next day's schedule, following an efficient route that will string together all errands in one sweep to save time.

· When scheduling appointments, allow time for the unexpected, like an important phone call coming in just when you're leaving the house, etc.

· Bring along something to read to make use of otherwise idle time, as when waiting for a meeting, in transit to and from work or between destinations.

· When you notice that you still lack time despite your improved time-management skills, consider lightening your load: bit less, not more, than you can chew.

8

The real victim of lousy time management is relationships. They suffer when we devote too much time on doing and achieving and too little on nurturing friendships or family ties. We have seen endless cases of the successful husband with the neglected wife; the accomplished career woman with problem children; the teenaged achiever without a friend; etc.

9

Beating deadlines is part and parcel of work, whether we are salespeople trying to meet a quota, surgeons rushing to save lives, memorial gardeners readying a plot for the day's burial, or *karinderia* cooks preparing today's lunch. But whatever work we do, let's remember that although we cannot stop the hands of time, we can control how we use the time in our hands.

10

Just as we cannot stop the passing of time, we cannot know either how much more time there is for us to spend beyond today. Observe and see that the most productive yet peaceful and pleasant persons around are those who see the wisdom of spending some time each day with the Giver of Time. It may only be a few minutes before retiring—thanking Him and asking for His help as needed—but it will always be a few minutes spent the best way a human being can.

BEST Attitudes

What's inside

Reflections for the Working Soul
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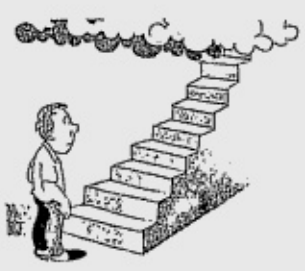

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HR Focus
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'I am torn between business and nursing'

By Tita Datu Puangco

A PLEASANT day! I am 21 years old and a fresh graduate of a business course. I enrolled myself in nursing as my second course right after graduation. A couple of weeks later, I decided to withdraw all my subjects because of different factors. I had to consider our financial capacity and I was so confused at that time.

After dropping all my subjects, I started applying to different organizations. I sent my application to a lot of companies, but still I have no job. My parents advised me to have a rest and take time to reflect on what is really my goal in life.

Now, I know what I really want. I have plans of going back to school next semester. I am focused and determined to finish nursing.

My problem is—is there a future in nursing after graduating three to four years from now? I wish you could give me enlightenment on my plans. Thank you and more power.

Confused

First of all, thank you for writing in. Your experience is similar to your batch of graduating students and I do hope that this reply will help others who have the same questions. I believe your feelings of uncertainty are a reflection of our times. With everything that is going on in the world and in our country, it is difficult to make plans that make sense. However, career planning is the smart thing to do regardless of the state of things.

Career analysis

In career planning, you need to take a look at yourself and assess the areas of your strongest skills, favorite interests, work conditions, geographical preferences, etc. What do you enjoy doing? In what work environment are you most productive? What are you good at? Take a look also at your experiences in school. Where did you excel? What gave you stress? Do you like working alone or with others?

Then, take a look at different jobs and see where you can maximize your strengths and minimize your weaknesses. Don't pick just one. Make a shortlist of around 10. As you get more information on these jobs, keep the ones that fit you best.

Then, ask around about the most effective methods of applying or sending your resume. This will depend on your field and the occupation that you are pursuing. Methods available nowadays could be through websites, headhunters, job fairs or walk in applications.

Reasons

Sadly, in the past few years, more and more Filipino nurses are migrating to the USA or Canada so they can practice their profession and feed their families. There are those who stay to pursue jobs requiring a medical background providing allied services such as medical transcription or call center support for medical equipment. Those who stay and become nurses in hospitals do so primarily not for the monetary benefits but for other more affective reasons such as, the joy of being close to their families or the sense of mission they feel in practicing the nursing profession. In this regard, know your reasons for wanting to get into nursing and let this guide your decision.

Blending

As you've already completed your business degree, consider the knowledge that you've acquired through school. A business background will be useful in whatever endeavor you take. If you decide to finish nursing, the coming together of the two courses is actually a niche that has been developing in the past decade in more developed countries. It is called "management of medical institutions." It could lead you to a career in managing hospitals, clinics, laboratories and other medical institutions.

Lastly, pray for grace in this moment. We cannot see the future but thank goodness we have a heavenly Father who guides us through life. Live each present moment to the best of your abilities and you can never go wrong.

All the best for you, Confused. Our prayers go with you in this adventure into the working world.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through email to advice@ancillaedc. com.ph or fax to 892-2902.)

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GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

INQUIRER

November 16, 2003

The Secret History of The Mongols

Cover Story
The Secret History of The Mongols, *by Eric S. Caruncho* 1
Ex-Eraserhead frontman Ely Buendia returns with an all-conquering, big new band

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By Eric S. Caruncho
Photograph by Edwin Bacasmas

Buddha's pets: From left, Buendia, Velasco, Siddhartha Gautama, Jugo and Yuzon

Ex-Eraserhead frontman Ely Buendia returns with an all-conquering, big new band

"There are moments for wisdom, Jamuga, and then I listen to you. But there are moments for action, and then I listen to my blood!"

—John Wayne as Genghis Khan in "The Conqueror" (1956)

CURIOSER and curioser, as Alice would say. The first time I played "Buddha's Pest," the new album by The Mongols, I immediately switched to headphones, dimmed the lights, and reached for the bong. Strange, since I haven't smoked in years and don't, in fact, own a bong.

But that's how the music made me feel. From the first distorted power chords of the opener, "Keeper," to the last reverberations of the hidden, untitled 13th track, "Buddha's Pest" took me back to high school and clandestine after-dinner headphone sessions with the family stereo, a fattie and my Moody Blues albums. To page 2

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INQUIRER SPECIAL

The Mongols ...from page 1

The Genghis Klan: "Just listen to the music" (From left: Yuzon, Jugo, Velasco, Buendia

Not that the Mongols sound anything like the Moody Blues, mind you. Anything but. Their acknowledged sonic influences include avatars of feedback such as the Velvet Underground and post-punk touchstones My Bloody Valentine, Sonic Youth and the Jesus and Mary Chain. But the layered washes of distorted electric guitars, menacing bass rumble and explosive drumming also call to mind "Gish"-era Smashing Pumpkins (before Billy Corgan got all wimpy and pretentious) and—dare I say it?—Black Sabbath. In short, Buddha's name be praised, the Mongols have produced a "head" album that's not afraid to rock.

But just who are the Mongols?

The CD insert credits Bogs Jugo on drums, Yan Yuzon on bass, Jerome Velasco (late of the Teeth) on guitar and one Jesus "Dizzy" Ventura on guitar and vocals. Jesus who? No big secret there. The distinctive voice, melodic hooks and double-edged lyrics are unmistakably Ely Buendia's.

"This is not a side project," Buendia asserts. "This is *the* project."

The Mongols are also not, repeat, not Buendia's back-up band. The Mongols, like Blondie, is a group.

Wearing a black "Urotsukidoji" T-shirt, Levi's and Converse One-Star sneakers, Buendia looks like he just walked out of Club Dredd Timog circa 1994, except that he's a few pounds heavier, wife Diane (who manages the Mongols) is hovering around, and three other guys are notable by their absence.

In fact, the subject of "the former group," as Buendia likes to refer to the Eraserheads these days, remains touchy. The unofficial press statement gives his reason for leaving the 'Heads as "height differences," but there is a palpable lack of enthusiasm whenever the subject of "the former group," any of the other members and their new bands comes up, hinting at a less than amicable split.

In short, don't ask.

Ten years of incestuous closeness will do that to you. As the press statement said, it was time to move on.

"It wasn't just music that was involved in our former bands," he explains. "Our fans were very territorial. They already had a bias. They expect a certain sound, a certain attitude, and that was what we wanted to escape. We just want to get back to the music."

"The 'Heads were always an experimental band," he continues. "We were always looking for something new, *napaka*-encyclopedic *kasi ng* interests *namin. Ngayon ko lang nalaman kung ano ang gusto kong gawin. Ito na 'yon.*"

The Mongols had its beginnings earlier this year when Buendia and Velasco, whose own outfit the Teeth was on hiatus following the lead singer's migration to the US, got together for some informal jams. Bassist Yuzon and drummer Jugo quickly gravitated to form the nucleus and a sound began to emerge.

"We're all fans of distortion," explains Velasco.

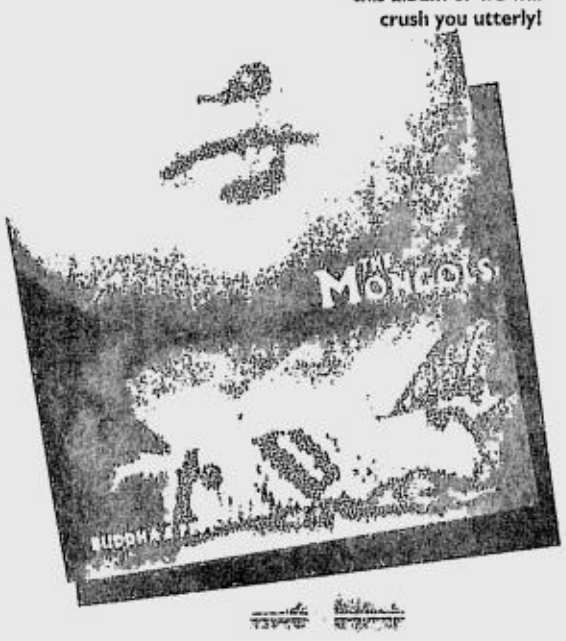
Free from commercial expectations, the foursome gave free rein to the primal urge to turn up the amps and rock out, and it wasn't long before songs began to emerge from the storm clouds of feedback and distortion.

In contrast to the power-mad riffs and as many as three guitars soloing, the songs were melodic dream pop that wouldn't have been out of place on any of "the former band's" albums.

"Melody is coming back in a big way," says Buendia.

The dramatic contrast between blasts of screaming feedback and snatches of exquisite melody seems to hint at a nostalgic longing for the era that birthed the E'heads and Teeth in the first place—the early '90s, a more innocent time of ripped jeans and flannel shirts and eight-eyelet Doc Martens.

At the same time, the lyrics have a darker edge than the sunnier work of the 'Heads.



The Mongols say: Buy this album or we will crush you utterly!

Songs with titles like "Candyflip" and "Wigout" hint at nascent psychedelia, while lines such as "I'm gonna f__ you like there's no tomorrow" ("Heroine") and "Slice and dice like a samurai on ice" ("Your Bushido") make it clear that the Mongols are a band apart.

As Yuzon puts it, "Only 25 percent of the Mongols came from the Eraserheads, and only 25 percent came from the Teeth. This has to be treated as a new body of work."

"*Sobrang bilis ang* startup *ng* band," adds Yuzon, easily the most voluble of the group. "It was very natural. We went into songwriting immediately. That's the nice thing about it. It wasn't prefab, it wasn't manufactured, it wasn't company-engineered, it just progressed naturally from the first jam."

Next item: the name.

"We're also fans of classic rock names," says Buendia. "No-nonsense, no-BS names, no pretentiousness. We just came up with the Mongols."

Okay, naming your group after the people who conquered the known world in the Middle Ages might hint at a bit of megalomania, but that's not necessarily a bad thing for a band.

In spite of their provenance, the Mongols built up a following just like any new group starting out, with small club gigs. Their return to traditional rock values—volume, distortion, pop hooks and guitar solos—came as a breath of fresh air to a scene grown stale with by-the-book rap metal and whiny pop-punk. The first single, "*Bulakbol*," started to gain airplay and the band produced their own EP, titled "...a fraction of a second," and sold it at gigs just like any other indie rock band. In time, the Mongols were signed to Viva's Neo Records, and the result is "Buddha's Pest," as uncompromising a slab of heavy guitar noise as has ever been released by a major label.

In the meantime, the Mongols have been seasoned by a steady diet of live gigs. Their moment of truth came at the recent Oktoberfest.

"We were already warned that they might start throwing things at us," recalls Buendia. "It was the kind of unruly crowd that is hardest to please—punks moshing. We were expecting the worst."

But within three numbers, the crowd quieted down and started to get into the music.

"It was a good sign. It meant that there is an audience out there that is willing to listen. That's who we're looking for, an audience that is open-minded."

The mainstream music industry's current fixation on commercial sure things—such as the Sexbomb Girls and sexy videoke CDs by bold starlets has given rise to the theory that original Filipino music (as opposed to what we know as OPM) has come full circle to that halcyon era before "Ultraelectromagneticpop" went platinum.

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The Mongols

...from page 1

The Genghis Klan: "Just listen to the music" (From left: Yuzon, Jugo, Velasco, Buendia

Not that the Mongols sound anything like the Moody Blues, mind you. Anything but. Their acknowledged sonic influences include avatars of feedback such as the Velvet Underground and post-punk touchstones My Bloody Valentine, Sonic Youth and the Jesus and Mary Chain. But the layered washes of distorted electric guitars, menacing bass rumble and explosive drumming also call to mind "Gish"-era Smashing Pumpkins (before Billy Corgan got all wimpy and pretentious) and—dare I say it?—Black Sabbath. In short, Buddha's name be praised, the Mongols have produced a "head" album that's not afraid to rock.

But just who are the Mongols?

The CD insert credits Bogs Jugo on drums, Yan Yuzon on bass, Jerome Velasco (late of the Teeth) on guitar and one Jesus "Dizzy" Ventura on guitar and vocals. Jesus who? No big secret there. The distinctive voice, melodic hooks and double-edged lyrics are unmistakably Ely Buendia's.

"This is not a side project," Buendia asserts. "This is *the* project."

The Mongols are also not, repeat, not Buendia's back-up band. The Mongols, like Blondie, is a group.

Wearing a black "Urotsukidoji" T-shirt, Levi's and Converse One-Star sneakers, Buendia looks like he just walked out of Club Dredd Timog circa 1994, except that he's a few pounds heavier, wife Diane (who manages the Mongols) is hovering around, and three other guys are notable by their absence.

In fact, the subject of "the former group," as Buendia likes to refer to the Eraserheads these days, remains touchy. The unofficial press statement gives his reason for leaving the 'Heads as "height differences," but there is a palpable lack of enthusiasm whenever the subject of "the former group," any of the other members and their new bands comes up, hinting at a less than amicable split.

In short, don't ask.

Ten years of incestuous closeness will do that to you. As the press statement said, it was time to move on.

"It wasn't just music that was involved in our former bands," he explains. "Our fans were very territorial. They already had a bias. They expect a certain sound, a certain attitude, and that was what we wanted to escape. We just want to get back to the music."

"The 'Heads were always an experimental band," he continues. "We were always looking for something new, *napaka*-encyclopedic *kasi ng* interests *namin. Ngayon ko lang nalaman kung ano ang gusto kong gawin. Ito na 'yon.*"

The Mongols had its beginnings earlier this year when Buendia and Velasco, whose own outfit the Teeth was on hiatus following the lead singer's migration to the US, got together for some informal jams. Bassist Yuzon and drummer Jugo quickly gravitated to form the nucleus and a sound began to emerge.

"We're all fans of distortion," explains Velasco.

Free from commercial expectations, the foursome gave free rein to the primal urge to turn up the amps and rock out, and it wasn't long before songs began to emerge from the storm clouds of feedback and distortion.

In contrast to the power-mad riffs and as many as three guitars soloing, the songs were melodic dream pop that wouldn't have been out of place on any of "the former band's" albums.

"Melody is coming back in a big way," says Buendia.

The dramatic contrast between blasts of screaming feedback and snatches of exquisite melody seems to hint at a nostalgic longing for the era that birthed the E'heads and Teeth in the first place—the early '90s, a more innocent time of ripped jeans and flannel shirts and eight-eyelet Doc Martens.

At the same time, the lyrics have a darker edge than the sunnier work of the 'Heads. Songs with titles like "Candyflip" and "Wigout" hint at nascent psychedelia, while lines such as "I'm gonna f__ you like there's no tomorrow" ("Heroine") and "Slice and dice like a samurai on ice" ("Your Bushido") make it clear that the Mongols are a band apart.

As Yuzon puts it, "Only 25 percent of the Mongols came from the Eraserheads, and only 25 percent came from the Teeth. This has to be treated as a new body of work."

"*Sobrang bilis ang* startup *ng* band," adds Yuzon, easily the most voluble of the group. "It was very natural. We went into songwriting immediately. That's the nice thing about it. It wasn't prefab, it wasn't manufactured, it wasn't company-engineered, it just progressed naturally from the first jam."

Next item: the name.

"We're also fans of classic rock names," says Buendia. "No-nonsense, no-BS names, no pretentiousness. We just came up with the Mongols."

Okay, naming your group after the people who conquered the known world in the Middle Ages might hint at a bit of megalomania, but that's not necessarily a bad thing for a band.

In spite of their provenance, the Mongols built up a following just like any new group starting out, with small club gigs. Their return to traditional rock values—volume, distortion, pop hooks and guitar solos—came as a breath of fresh air to a scene grown stale with by-the-book rap metal and whiny pop-punk. The first single, "*Bulakbol*," started to gain airplay and the band produced their own EP, titled "...a fraction of a second," and sold it at gigs just like any other indie rock band. In time, the Mongols were signed to Viva's Neo Records, and the result is "Buddha's Pest," as uncompromising a slab of heavy guitar noise as has ever been released by a major label.

In the meantime, the Mongols have been seasoned by a steady diet of live gigs. Their moment of truth came at the recent Oktoberfest.

"We were already warned that they might start throwing things at us," recalls Buendia. "It was the kind of unruly crowd that is hardest to please—punks moshing. We were expecting the worst."

But within three numbers, the crowd quieted down and started to get into the music.

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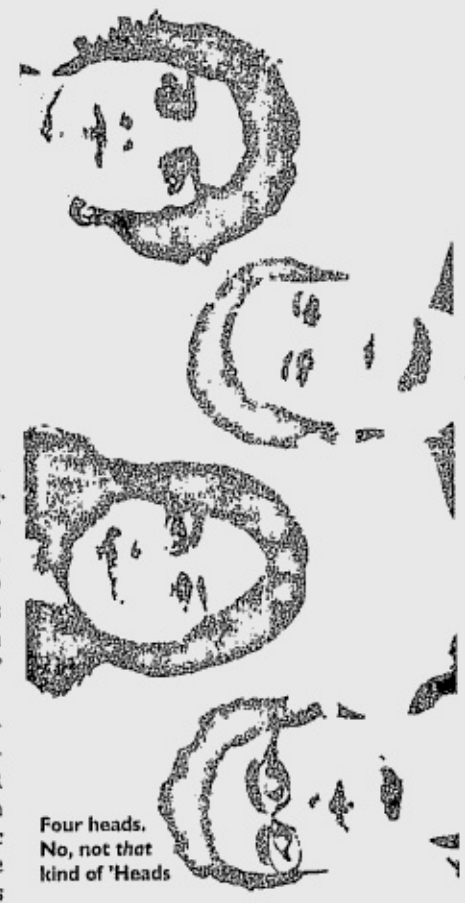

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The Mongols say: Buy this album or we will crush you utterly!

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Music Makers

By Joy Rojas

The Vamp Revamped

ROMY HOMILLADA

HE appears occasionally on ABS-CBN's "ASAP" and GMA-7's "S.O.P.," and has carved a niche for herself as "The Queen of Corporate Shows." The last time she had a hit song on the radio? "Never mind!" she dismisses with a hearty laugh. On "One," a star-studded sequel to the spiritual concert "One For The Soul," she shares the Folk Arts Theater stage this November 22 with a cast of equally talented entertainers. Anna Fegi will be there, and so will Luke Mijares, Franco Laurel, Ayen Munji-Laurel, and hot acoustic artist Paolo Santos.

But for Verni Vaga, it's all good. "There's a reason why this voice was given to me, and now I realize I have to share it," says Varga, who behaves more like the friend you hadn't seen in years than the diva that she is. "Singing now has to be used for God's glory alone, nothing for me anymore."

Such talk would have been inconceivable years ago to Varga, or Ignacia Mabugat in real life. A native of Cebu's Bantayan Island, her family moved to Manila when she was one. Coming from a vocally gifted household (her father had a beautiful voice and her brother sang in a band), Varga would discover her own talent later in college. Hanging out with friends one day after class at the Papillon bar across the Manila Garden Hotel, she gamely obliged them with an impromptu number, a cool and husky rendition of an Astrud Gilberto song. By the end of the *gimik*, the Mass Communications major from Far Eastern University had become the female vocalist of Bong Peñera's renowned jazz ensemble, Batucada. "He was there when I was singing and he asked me if I wanted to join his group. *Siempre,* the Batucada was so famous at the time, so type *ko talaga!*" she exclaims, her eyes widening. "I was still studying then, *pero kinareer ko na.*"

Peñera takes credit for christening the already sexy singer Verni Varga, a combination of her real nickname, as she was born on a Friday, and a homage to the Varga Girls—idealized, airbrushed pin-ups from the 1940s. He also introduced her to jazz, a style that suited her spontaneity as a singer. "It's not like being in a box," says Varga, who sang with the Batucada for a year before collaborating with other legendary jazz exponents Emil Mijares and Rudy Francisco. "You have more freedom doing jazz and you can really express yourself." This should explain the "vocal acrobatics"—scatting, bird chirps, jungle cries, and other embellishments she never sings the same way twice. "Whenever I hear a beautiful melody line, I'm inspired to enhance it," she explains. "I enjoy doing it."

From the mid '80s to early '90s she was at the peak of her career: She headlined ticket-selling shows, waxed four albums, and had a slew of hits, the most memorable of which was the spirited anthem "You'll Always Be My Number One." Ironically, her personal life hit rock bottom. "To the max *talaga*. You name it. It was so embarrassing," she shudders of her wild, party animal days. When late nights on the town ended with her crying out of sheer loneliness, she prayed to God to bless her with a solid relationship. Give me a sign," she urged Him in her prayer. "On our first date, let us talk about You. And you know what? It really happened! *Hay*, my God, *grabe talaga!*"

Her party days may be over, but Verni Varga continues to celebrate life, this time through songs of love, hope and inspiration

The stars of "One": Luke Mijares, Verni, Ayen Munji-Laurel, Franco Laurel and Anna Fegi

He was Ric Oledan, an old acquaintance she met initially through her association with the deposed first family (Oledan's parents were close to the Marcoses), and later through mutual friends. "I didn't notice him, but he noticed me in a red dress and red heels," she relates enthusiastically of her first-ever encounter with her husband-to-be. It would be years before Varga finally noticed him back. One day, she intuitively accepted a dinner invitation with him over another suitor. Needless to say, God came up in the course of the evening. "We have the same story. We were both sick and tired of it all," says Varga, who, like Oledan, is a Christian. "He'd also come home lonely and in tears and he also prayed for a lasting relationship." Eight years later, their union has produced two kids, Gianfranco, 5, and Gianna Maria, 2. "How we were in the beginning, we still are today as friends, lovers, husband and wife," says Varga who has a daughter, 18-year-old Katrina, from a previous relationship. "It's really a marriage made in heaven."

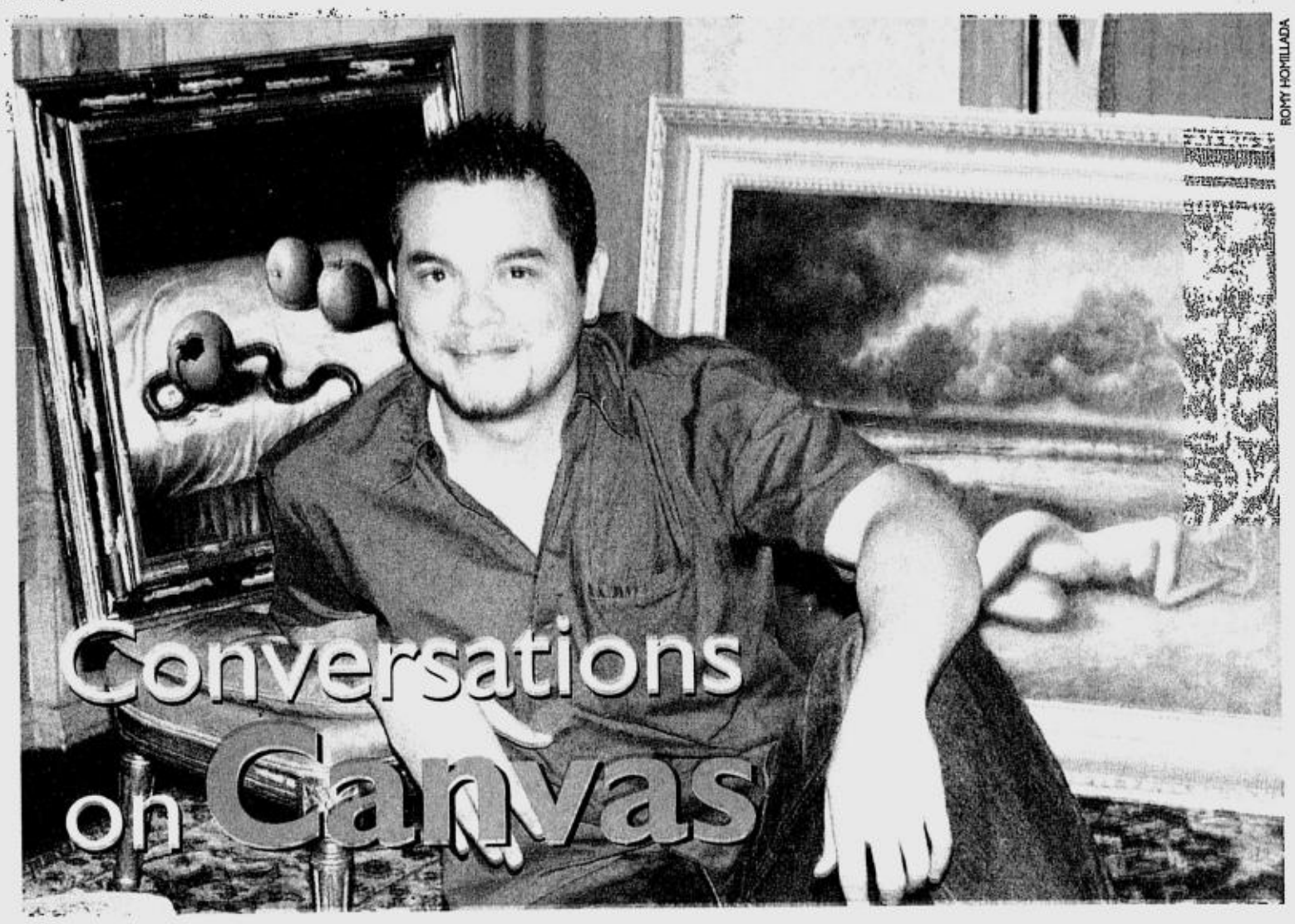
Domesticity becomes the former life of the party. She's given up swearing and seductive apparel (though for the record, she makes an ordinary pair of jeans look like second skin). "Excuse me, but before there were butt implants, *may* butt *na ako!*" she exclaims good-naturedly, thus dispelling the rumor about the source of her shapely derriere. On the home front, marriage and motherhood have inspired her to cook, play golf with her husband and kids, and, much to her surprise, write songs. To date, she has three compositions, two contemporary songs in English, the other a *kundiman*. "I write my thoughts after praying, and lately, it's almost as if I can hear a melody when I read them! Of course, I'm shocked because I've never composed before."

Varga intends to record her songs in a long-overdue album set for release, she predicts, middle of next year. For now, she's content covering songs of love, hope and praise. Friends and fans approve of the way the artist and her repertoire have evolved. "I used to sing 'Follow Your Road' in Calesa Bar. It's only now that I finally understand what the lyrics mean. *Grabe pala!*" Thus, "Deliver Me," "The Places You Find Love," "Dust In The Wind," and "Jesus Loves Me," shouldn't be a stretch for the singer when she performs them in "One." In a concert that features "singers and actors depicting the different characters we meet in the journey of life," Varga will be "the one who is at peace with (herself) and the Lord," she assures. "The one who shares God's word from personal experience."

For inquiries on "One," call Backroom, Inc. at 928-3121 or ML Entertainment at 638-7776.

Artwatch

By Alya B. Honasan



ROMY HOHILADA

Conversations on Canvas

Bruihn's visual reparteé with the masters who influence him has resulted in homages to the classics—with a wry twist

WHEN Bruihn says his paintings are like his babies, he means that literally. Meeting him for this interview in the home of Firma's Ricky Toledo, we witness how he sees his paintings framed for the first time—and virtually swoons. "Oh, the babies!" exclaims his wife Cez, herself an artist. "They look so good!"

Indeed they do, glowing oils set in golden frames and depicting the denizens of Bruihn's surreal world. There's the serious *señorita* with breasts on her fan, or the woman made of driftwood in a barren landscape, or the king who's bigger than his castle. And Bruihn treats them all with utmost respect, giving each artwork a life of its own that must be allowed to evolve. "I had originally wanted this to be a desert," he says of the driftwood lady's background, "but it didn't *want* a desert." In fact, for the 27-year-old artist, a good painting is "80 percent listening—me listening to the painting, to what it wants to be. Sometimes I try to push what I want on to the piece, I still do, but in the end that's how it has to be." He calls it a conversation, a dialogue. "And after you cut the umbilical cord, it's up to the viewer to have his own conversation with the work." In fact, Bruihn doesn't even relish signing his name on the painting, viewing it as a kind of imposition of jarring reality on a dream world.

Any conversation with Bruihn's subjects would seem worth the effort, though. They are remarkable people in surreal, symbolic settings, rendered in a style that is a brazen homage to masters—Leonardo da Vinci, Caravaggio, Rene Magritte—yet made unique by an unexpected tweak. "Rebellious Disguise," the lady with the breasts, postures like a Mona Lisa, but the exposed body parts and the raging bulls in the background demand a double-take, or seem to say, "Take that, Leonardo!" "Journey of the Tesseract" could be a gloomy Rembrandt head, but what's that tiny locomotive doing making the rounds of the man's collar, puffs of smoke billowing across his eyes? "The classics have always spoken to me, with that inner light—they make my hair stand on end," says Bruihn. "At the same time, these works are viewed with a certain reverence, they're almost snooty. I like it that people are reminded of something else when they see my work, but if you could render it with some humor..."

And what of the viewer's interpretation? "If a viewer comes up with something different from what I perceive, that's great; it just adds to the story. If they don't get it—well, if I get one in a room of 10 people, if they can strike their own conversation with the piece, great. I love it when people look at the work, standing there, really quiet; you know there's something going on."

The "conversation" that is the creative process takes Bruihn about a month, which is why "*Purleceré*: The Unfolding," his very first exhibit, will feature only nine works. "I toy with the idea in my head. It's like having a filing cabinet; you have ideas incubating, others you forget about. When the time is right, it comes out. The relationship I have with my art, that conversation, also includes whatever's happening in my life." The driftwood lady, for example, was symbolic of wife Cez when she was newly pregnant, and both of them were coping with the many changes that came into their life. "It was like a drought, like we were waiting for rain. Sometimes you look at a work and realize, yes, I remember, that's what I was going through at the time."

"Rebellious Disguise," oil on canvas

It's been a young life that was "pumped with art" from an early age. Born Brian Uhing in Manila to a German-American father and a Filipina mother, Bruihn, his parents and siblings have all faced a canvas at one time or another; his dad is into photography, his mother makes candles, and a sister is a writer. He sent himself through school with occasional murals and commercial work, but quit the Fine Arts program at the University of the Philippines after two weeks. "I needed to learn the basics, and the program was a bit too modern for me." In fact, to this day Bruihn says he cannot understand abstraction. "I don't understand the language. It's really a matter of sincerity—not that one artist is more sincere than the other, but it all depends on what speaks to you."

A lot of Bruihn's art education, in fact, came from books, although he studied watercolor for two years with Spanish artist. Carlos Ygoa. "They say it's the toughest medium, so I wanted to handle that first."

Four years ago, he met Cez Nuñez through a mutual friend, and the two were married after a whirlwind courtship. They lived in Sagada for three years, until Cez became pregnant. Today, they are parents to a six-month-old baby boy, River. "I can't wait to sketch him," says the proud father. "In fact, they happened at the same time—the baby, and the babies," Bruihn gestures towards the works. "That's true, when you spend that much time looking at an image, and you grow with it, it becomes your baby."

Bruihn goes by no personal schedule, but believes that you have to live life before you can paint it. "Every day I show up at the easel, with no routine. But I also believe that if you drop your personal life and don't look at the sky that you're supposed to be painting, after a while you'll end up with something that looks like clouds but don't feel like anything. You're running on empty if you have nothing to draw from. If you don't know what the ocean feels like, you shouldn't be painting oceans. You should spend enough time in front of the ocean to get its moods. You've got to live."

"Purleceré: The Unfolding" *runs from Nov. 27 to December 11 at Firma, Ground Floor Greenbelt 3 Main Lobby, Ayala Center, Makati. Call 757-4009 for details.*

The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

Thirty Days Before *Simbang Gabi:* An Invitat

THE migrant and street youth who had been displaced and endangered in the city, and who are now being ministered to by the Center For Migrant Youth (CMY), have decided to do the ministering this time. They will reach out to the street beggars and mendicant families around Cordillera Street in Quezon City, some poor communities in Bulacan and abandoned slum children in Antipolo.

Please help the poor reach out to the poor by collecting used/useable clothing, shoes and toys and basic foodstuff, and bring them to the Center For Migrant Youth (103 Cordillera St., SMH, Q.C.) before December 12 so we can start packaging them for gift-giving on December 19 at 5 p.m.

Here are some of the "Christmas things" we want the poor to see in their "*Pamaskuhan* bag": rice, sugar, coffee (please send us the pre-packed one kilo rice or sugar in plastic bags, and pre-packed instant coffee in small packets), milk, noodles, canned foods, condiments, bath and laundry soap, toothbrush and toothpaste, rubber slippers, candles and toys for children, biscuits and vitamins for the elderly, First Aid medicine for simple aches, cuts and pains.

Simple and little things from the heart can bring big cheers to the wounded hearts of the poor and the little children of the kingdom. And on the spot where we embrace them in His Name, let us experience the birth of Jesus—and the presence of a God who has loved us first.

Come to our 4th Sunday of Advent Mass, December 21, 5 p.m. Bring a small lantern or a colored vigil lamp (and an umbrella to scare the rains away). And let us sing the simple carols of Christmas.

Illustration by STEPH BRAVO

For details, please call 8912959), Angge Soriano (3 Bonifacio (620-6235).

Whatever is left after the poor will go to the sustenan needs of the Center For Mig you from the heart.

* * *

The Gospel Today

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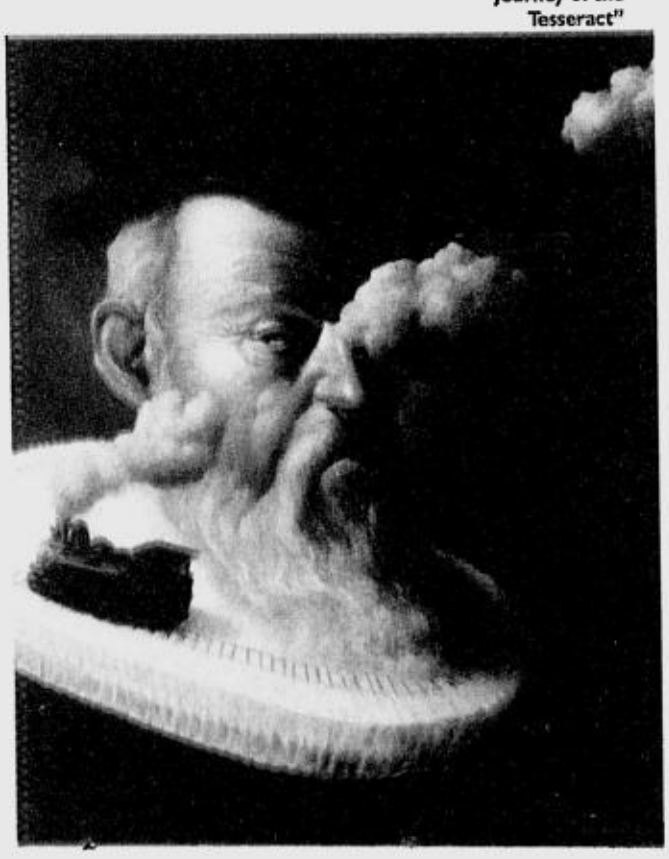

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Pinoy Connection

By Annie Gorra Rago

A Filipino in Canada's Cabinet

Respected physician-turned-politician Dr. Rey Pagtakhan is the quiet, dependable guy on the Canadian Cabinet, taking on causes ranging from immigration to same-sex marriages

BENNY RAGO

REY Pagtakhan, the first Filipino Canadian in the federal cabinet of Canada's Prime Minister Jean Chretien and the Member of Parliament representing the Winnipeg North-St. Paul electoral district in Winnipeg, Manitoba, is his own kind of a man in politics. He's honest and forthright, well-liked and well-respected by his constituents and colleagues. His quiet ways of getting things done have prompted Prime Minister Chretien to tell the Winnipeg Free Press in 1997 that he likes Pagtakhan because he is not a "showboat. He's the kind of MP who has never gotten carried away with the trappings of the office."

In a hotel room in Richmond, British Columbia last July, it was hard to pick out the Minister of Veterans Affairs, one of the positions he holds in the Chretien Cabinet, among the Korean War veterans celebrating the 50th year of the Korean War armistice. Standing at about five feet with a receding hairline, a kindly face, the medical doctor-turned-politician looks more of a grandfather than a four-time elected MP and a cabinet member.

"I don't do things for publicity," Pagtakhan says. His quiet ways have worked to his advantage. He doesn't come across as a threat. A political opponent told Maclean's, a national newsmagazine in Canada, that "Rey is a well-meaning fellow but naive." Pagtakhan won the elections and has been representing his riding since.

"It's a big job," says Paul Thomas, political scientist and The Duff Roblin Professor of Government at the University of Manitoba, of Pagtakhan's many roles in the Chretien cabinet. Besides representing his electoral district in the House of Commons and Minister of Veterans Affairs, he is the Secretary of State for Science and Research. "He has departments to run and he's expected to be the voice of Manitoba."

He's been the voice of his constituency since 1988. He was a professor of pediatrics and child health at the University of Manitoba and a children lung specialist when he decided to enter politics. Says Pagtakhan of the change in careers, "I thought I could apply myself, having achieved a career in medicine, to the bigger issues of the nation." He considers medicine an excellent background for government. "Politics is about people, medicine is about people, so the two are congruent."

Unfair as it may sound, the question that comes to mind is whether his political success rides on the immigrant or Filipino votes in his multi-ethnic district. Thomas finds that thinking "too narrow an interpretation" of Pagtakhan's success in Manitoba. He does not discount the strong support of the Filipino and other ethnic communities in Pagtakhan's success; however, he says, "he needs to get votes from all sectors of his community." Pagtakhan has the same perspective. The 68-year-old MP acknowledges the support of his *kababayan,* but at the same time points to the fact that the vast majority of voters are not Filipino.

The four-time MP immigrated to Canada in 1968 to pursue further training in children's lung diseases at the University of Manitoba. Since then, he has been on the rise. He didn't start at the bottom of the ladder as most immigrants presently do. "I did not face the difficulty," he admits. After his fellowship at the university, he was automatically invited to join the faculty and licensed to practice medicine. He later became the director of the Manitoba Cystic Fibrosis Centre and president of the Manitoba Pediatric Society.

The ease with which he entered Canadian life must have been the reward for a difficult life in the Philippines. He almost didn't finish high school because his parents were strapped for cash. "There were periods in the life of our family when our parents would tell us that we were really on subsistence," he says. "It was very tough."

He credits his aunt for seeing them through tough times and the community for helping him finish medicine at the University of the Philippines. "I would take a loan from friends in the community, friends of the family," he says. "I was always in arrears." He wore second-hand pairs of socks, which he shared with his brothers.

The humble *pan de sal* and guava jelly stand out in his memory; they powered him through the most part of his premedical studies. He brought them with him from home in Cavite to his boarding house on a Saturday or Sunday, and ate them for breakfast until Thursday. "They would get hard," he says, because he was "too shy to put them in the fridge." On Fridays, he would get one decent breakfast. Up to the day that the medical board exams were released, he was selling bread in his mother's little bakery. Today he is helping shape the policies and future of his adopted country.

Maclean's Magazine recounts that in 1992, at the height of the controversy over Canada's admission of a former Iraqi Ambassador to the US into the country, Pagtakhan stood up in the House of Commons. The sister of a constituent from India wanted to come to Canada to attend the cremation of a family member. She was refused a visa because the Canadian government feared that she might stay in Canada. Pagtakhan, impassioned by the incident, asked his colleagues in parliament, "We allow the mouthpiece of a murderer to be hastily ushered into Canada as an immigrant without delay—does this government have no heart?" The woman received a permit to enter Canada for the funeral.

A query from a constituent about the meaning of letters and numbers on a jar of tomato sauce prompted Pagtakhan to introduce a 1994 bill that required food and beverage manufacturers to print clearly and legibly "best before" and expiration dates on the labels of canned and frozen foods.

In May this year, he introduced legislation that extended housekeeping services for surviving spouses of veterans to a lifetime, including improving health programs and compensation benefits.

However, not everyone is a fan. A 76-year-old widow of a WW II veteran recently told a national paper in Canada that she has collected a petition, but "the Minister of Veterans Affairs never even acknowledged it."

Criticisms don't appear to ruffle Pagtakhan much. The kind that stings most, however, comes from fellow Filipinos who think that he has not done much to forward their cause. "I feel proud that he's a Filipino and doing a lot of things on the national level," says one Filipino-Canadian community leader, "but I haven't seen anything yet on specific Filipino requests."

When told about this perception, the normally calm Minister's voice tightens. "It's not for me to go to the media and say, 'Oh, I've done this.'" He recalls helping a Filipino in Edmonton, Alberta, who was about to be deported by the Canadian immigration. He was able to arrange for her to attend her hearing without fear of being arrested by the authorities. He set the condition that if she loses the case, she returns to the Philippines. The woman lost the case, but instead of leaving the country she sought refuge in a church basement, where she is protected from the authorities under the law. The members of the Filipino community, says Pagtakhan, were ready to rally from Montreal to Vancouver. He asked them pointblank, "What will you achieve? Do you want to help her, or do you want publicity?"

How strong a voice Pagtakhan will be in pushing this cause forward may depend on how he will fare under the new leadership of the Liberal Party. Paul Martin, the new leader, was the nemesis of Prime Minister Chretien in the party's leadership race.

The other decisive factor of his political future may be his position on the same-sex marriage issue, which has divided the nation. In June 2003, the Ontario Court of Appeal changed the traditional definition of marriage from union between man and woman to union between two persons, thus allowing marriage between two people of the same gender. Instead of appealing the ruling to the Supreme Court of Canada, Chretien and his Cabinet supported the court's decision. They plan to introduce legislation in the near future that will recognize homosexual union. This decision has outraged Christians, Muslims, and people from other faiths who uphold the traditional definition of marriage.

Pagtakhan approaches this political quicksand cautiously. "My view is that the two principles must be allowed to prevail—the right to equality, which is about the right of people to do as they please as long as they don't harm others, and the principle of freedom, the freedom of religion."

Whatever results from the Paul Martin leadership or the same-sex issue, Pagtakhan does not appear anxious about the prognosis of his political future. He has written his own prescription for it: Serve as best he can. "I feel I can still do things for the community and to the best of my ability," he says. If only we could bring him back home to the Philippines.

Simple and little things from the heart can bring big cheers to the wounded hearts of the poor and the little children of the kingdom

JEAN-MARC CARISSE

With Canada's Prime Minister Jean Chretien (left) when he was parliamentary secretary

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...oik-Ladip (0917-74-2470) or Tina ...gift-giving to the ...e and scholarship ...rant Youth. Thank ...

...of Mark 19:24-32 ...sus was referring ...Coming (the exact ...ay he said), but al- ...the destruction of ...sied in 70 A.D. as ...ing," Jesus of the ...us to death with ...despair but to alert ...rein; and to gently ...h for the day and ...s to sprout leaves ...mer is near." ...nd waiting" to the ...ing mother (or fa- ...their baby's first ...r own waiting and ...puberty when you ...ir first child when ...ance of your first wrinkle or gray hair when you were 40, and for the first signs of arthritis when you were 60.

You can go on waiting and watching for "branches becoming tender and leaves sprouting" and "branches becoming dry and leaves falling"—and branches and leaves sprouting and blooming again—and again.

If you have a biblical faith, not even sickness or death can keep you from waiting and watching—like a little child—for the signs of growth and life that never end. But the "Son of Man comes in the clouds" today, tomorrow, or later, and let the sun, the moon and the stars frighten the daylights out of this unbelieving humanity. But we who have remained faithful to the "Word that will never pass away" shall keep on waiting and watching for more and more exciting gifts to come from our God who is a God of surprises.

Here at the Center For Migrant Youth, we shall remain an "open house" for homeless and street youth now displaced in the city, and a place of prayer and healing for those in pain. We shall continue "waiting and watching for the branches to become tender, and the leaves to sprout because we know that summer is near."

Aren't the 30 Days (yet!) before Simbang Gabi already a Season of Hope?

People for the Planet

By Corazon A. Ong

The Sherlock Holmes of Plants

Research professor Dr. Roberto E. Coronel is tracking down little-known native plants to propagate and save them from extinction

VICENTE CARBEON

Dr. Coronel showing off his grafted *kabuyaw* or kaffir lime

He never dreamt of a career in agriculture, but today, research professor Dr. Roberto E. Coronel has a fruitful life discovering little known plants endemic to the Philippines and propagating them. The fruit-and-nut expert at the Institute of Plant Breeding in UP Los Baños, has in fact been dubbed "the Sherlock Holmes of Plants" by newspaperman-turned-farmer Joe Burgos, for his work in tracking down obscure plants that are all but lost to more popular varieties.

He thought of taking up commerce, recalls this Bulacan, Bulacan native, until an uncle dissuaded him. The uncle had attended workshops and seminars at UP Los Baños during the summer and found the environment agreeable. "He thought this was where I should be," says Coronel.

Shifting to agriculture sealed his fate. It led to a teaching stint at UP and a lifelong passion for conserving and developing native fruit species which has earned him accolades here and abroad. Coronel's book, "Edible Fruits and Nuts," published in the Netherlands, has been translated not only in Filipino but also in other languages, including Bahasa Indonesia and Vietnamese. "It is the most complete reference on tropical fruits in Asia," he says matter-of-factly.

The Rome-based International Plant Genetic Institute has, in turn, commissioned Coronel to write a monograph on the promotion and use of the underdeveloped pili nut. The Katutubo (meaning, native), he says, is the first pili variety registered in the Philippines. "Until now, it has not been surpassed in terms of productivity and nut size."

The mother plant which produced Katutubo was among the pili nuts from Oas, Albay, planted in the 1920s along the present-day Pili Drive in UP Los Baños. The drive going to the Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB) is lined with pili trees that, according to Coronel, have a lot of potential and are easy to propagate.

Pili, like the fruits *mabolo* and *balimbing* (starfruit) are endemic in the Philippines. He laments, however, that we are fast losing many of our native fruit varieties because we have stopped using them. "For example, in mangoes, the most popular and saleable is the carabao variety so that other varieties like pajo, pico and baluno (a wild mango seen in Mindanao) are becoming very rare. Trees bearing these varieties are being cut to give way to carabao mangoes."

To track down the country's remaining native plants, Dr. Coronel does some sleuthing job, with a little help from his staff and some old literature. Despite such efforts, they sometimes fail to save the plants. Recalls this agriculturist: "We read in this Philippine Agricultural Review issue published in the early 1900s that an old mango variety known as Corazon existed in Malabon (now Gen. Aguinaldo), Cavite. We went there in 1978 to collect budsticks to propagate this rare mango, but found out that the owner had cut down the tree. We only saw the stump and knew that we had permanently lost a valuable plant resource."

He remembers another huge, century-old carabao mango tree heavily laden with fruits in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, which he knew was still existing in 2000. "But when we returned this summer, the tree was no longer there. We were told that it was hit by lightning."

For the most part, however, Dr. Coronel and his team succeed in their efforts to collect and preserve native plants, such as the *galo* of Indang, Cavite and the *bago* of Cuenca, Batangas. "*Galo* and *bago* are, like pili and mabolo, underutilized native fruits. They could be raised as garden plants,and provide nutritious food for the family."

How does his team operate? "When we go on collecting trips, we get mature fruits and budsticks for evaluation and propagation in the laboratory," says Coronel. "We measure important fruit characters such as weight, length, width, color and shape of the various parts such as the peel, flesh and seed. We germinate the seeds to produce seedlings and graft the budsticks to produce grafted plants exactly like the mother plant we collected."

Coronel's conservation work, however, does not begin and end in his office and laboratory. He carries it at home, too. His backyard in his modest house outside the UP Los Baños campus is full of grafted plants in various stages of growth. There is *kabuyaw* or *kulubot* (Kaffir lime), a member of the citrus family, that used to thrive in Cabuyao, Laguna, and which gave the town its name—an industrialized area nowadays.

"In the old days, the lime was used as a shampoo but with the advent of commercial preparations, *kabuyaw*'s popularity went down," says Coronel. "As it turned out, however, its leaves are much more useful than the fruit. Filipinos, for instance, who have been to Thailand and tasted its famous tom yum soup, would know it uses *kabuyaw* whose leaves give the dish its distinct flavor and aroma. In fact, I use the leaves in practically everything I cook. *Sinigang, bagoong, at kung anu-ano pa*."

There is also *bignay*, a plant rich in antioxidant. *Bignay* juice has a color and taste that remind one of grapes. Why buy grapes when we can have bignay instead, he asks.

Another plant Coronel is excited about is the miracle fruit, a bush-like plant he and the IPB helped introduce in the Philippines. Native to Ghana and Nigeria in Africa, the miracle fruit is fast gaining popularity here.

What makes it special? Anything sour, like calamansi or green mango, will taste sweet if you take a bite of miracle fruit first, he says. "Though not documented, some cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy have said that eating the fruit helped restore their appetite because it removed the metallic taste in their mouth after the chemo sessions," Coronel adds.

While most of the plants in his backyard are for sale, there are some which are not, like the Sweet Elena, a big-fruited carabao mango, which is still under study and propagation. "The mother tree is owned by Nida Malabed of Sta. Cruz, Zambales, and was named after Malabed's mother." The Sweet Elena shows promise because with its size, 360 grams per fruit, it could very well compete in the world market.

As the incumbent president of the Philippine Fruit Association who has been invited to grace many international fruit symposia, Coronel knows that unless Filipinos face the realities of changing times, we will be left behind in the export market. "Let's talk about mangoes, for example. By our standards, Philippine mangoes are already the best. But abroad, they pale in comparison to those coming from Mexico and Brazil, which are far more attractive to consumers because of their bigger size and reddish color. We call it red blush. Consumers are easily attracted by the fruit's outside appearance so we must adapt accordingly if we want to survive and compete. At present, some 90 countries are already producing mangoes, with Latin American countries, notably Mexico and Brazil, as the leading exporters." Part of his work, Coronel says, is to develop better fruit varieties so that Philippine fruit growers can compete in the export market.

Apart from his backyard garden, Coronel also keeps a four-hectare conservation farm in Calauan, Laguna. "It is not simply a farm. The idea is to conserve, conserve and conserve, especially endemic and indigenous plant species." Interested growers are welcome to source their plants from the farm, he says.

Coronel is due to retire from the academe next year but given his natural love for all living plants, his farming days are just beginning.

Ani

Batay sa pinturang Harvest Moon *(mga 1830)*
ni Samuel Palmer

Hinog na humihinog ang dalangadang.

Hikaw ba ng hitana ang humihilang magneto
ng buwan?

Hindi ingay ang tumawag sa matandang kampesino.
Antisipasyon ba sa pag-aani?

Waring may bumaba mula sa tabing na binutas ng nag-iisang talà. (Taga-ibang planeta sa *Mga Signos* ni M.
Night Shyamalan?)

Nailatag na ang ginto.
Alumpihit na kagampan ang mga puno't dahon.

Naghihintay ang mga guhit ng anino.

Sa kumpas, hahatlin ng tungkod ang buo,
pulang-pulang maisan.

Ano mang oras may magdaraan.
Maaaring pagaspas. O huni.

Mesandel Virtusio Arguelles

Art

21/21 Vision, an exhibit featuring the works of 42 renowned painters including Arturo Luz, Malang, Manny Baldemor and Bencab, side by side with upcoming artists Aba Lluch Dalena, Jemina, Jucar Raquepo and Patrick de Veyra, Nov. 21 to Dec. 11 at the Crossroad 22 Convention Center, Mother Ignacia St., QC. There will also be a children's on-the-spot drawing/painting contest, interviews and interaction with participating artists, sketching sessions featuring the Saturday Group and classical music symposia. Interested schools are encouraged to participate by signing up for special tours. For details, call Pete Galvez at 681-7494 or 681-9935.

"Voyage to Capones" by Elmer Borlongan, on auction at the CCP

Glitterati, an exhibit of Naga jewelry by Wynn Wynn Ong, 2003-2004 collection, opens Nov. 20 at Firma, G/F, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati. For details, call 757-4009.

Tuloy Foundation marks its 10th year with a **photo and art exhibit** from Nov. 20-26 at Glorietta 3, between Goodwill Bookstore and Marks & Spencer. The exhibit will feature photographs by Fernando Sepe Jr., Ben Razon and Sonny Yabao of the streetchildren of Tuloy Foundation, graduates of the Tuloy program and the Streetchildren Village. Artworks and pottery by the wards of Tuloy Foundation will also be on display.

Time Will Tell, Diokno Pasilan's recent exhibit on textile, until Nov. 28 at The Drawing Room, G/F Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Avenue, Makati City.

***Pamumuwesto sa Aking Lakaran*: Being Within a Filipina's Search for the Mutya**, an exhibit featuring Mary Ann Ubaldo's creation of Urduja jewelry designs and photographs that document the art of santo-carving, fruits in the marketplace, indoor and outdoor scenes of Quiapo, Nov. 22 to Dec. 2 at Bahay Nakpil-Bautista, 432 Bautista St., Quiapo, Manila.

Music

Filipina **marimba player Dena P. Fernandez** performs in the third concert series of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra on Nov. 21, 8 p.m. at the CCP Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo. Repertoire consists of Peña's "Divertimento for Strings," Paul Creston's "Concertino for Marimba and Orchestra," and George Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess." For details, call 832-3681 or 832-3878.

Santuario de San Vicente de Paul in Tandang Sora, QC presents **Ramon "RJ" Jacinto and Friends in a concert** to raise funds for its shrine construction to be held on Nov. 29, 7:30 p.m. at the Valle Verde Country Club Ballroom, Pasig City. Tickets at P500.

Cinema

A downpour of love, laughs and emotion storms Greenbelt 1 ArtFilm as it brings to audiences a celebration of life in **Monsoon Wedding** until Nov. 25. Directed by Mira Nair, "Monsoon Wedding" is a light, poignant tale that peeks into the life of a Punjabi family four days into their daughter's elaborate wedding ceremony. Winner of the Golden Lion at the 2001 Venice Film Festival and the Best Foreign Language Film honor at 2002 British Independent Film Awards, the movie also won a Golden Globe nomination for Best Foreign Language Film and opened worldwide to tremendous critical and commercial acclaim. For inquiries on the ArtFilm Coffee Club session and admission, call 752-7865. Admission is P100.

Onstage

New Voice Company presents the comedy **Stones in His Pockets**, a two-man show about the filming of a major Hollywood epic in a small village starring Jamie Wilson and Michael Williams. The play will run at the new Republic of Malate from Nov. 21-29 with Friday and Saturday evening shows at 8 p.m., and Saturday matinees at 3:30 p.m. For tickets, call 896-6695 or 899-0630.

Imaginary Invalid, a comedy by Moliere who pokes fun at the medical profession and its gullible clientele, will be presented by Dulaang UP from Nov. 26 to Dec. 14 at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, 2/F, Palma Hall, UP Diliman, QC. The play stars Roy Alvarez, Richard Cunanan, Fonz Deza, Frances Makil-Ignacio, Romnick Sarmenta and Tony Mabesa. For tickets, call 926-1349.

Atbp

The Cultural Center of the Philippines will be holding two **special auctions** to raise funds for its artistic programs. The first set, which will be sold through a silent bidding between Nov. 19 and 26, consists of Cordillera pieces, paintings, prints and photographs, which are not part of the CCP collection. The second set will feature works by leading Filipino contemporary artists and will be sold via silent bidding and ending with a live auction on Dec. 3 at the main lobby of the CCP. Silent bidders are required to register with the CCP Gift Shop and pay a non-refundable fee of P500 for which they will be provided with 10 bid cards and 10 bid envelopes. For inquiries, call the CCP Visual Arts at 832-3702 or 832-1125 loc. 1504 / 1505.

Tahanan Books for Young Readers will launch a full-color picture book featuring the original drawings and words of Jose Rizal's folk tale **The Monkey and the Turtle** on Nov. 25, 5-7 p.m. at Powerbooks, Greenbelt 4, Makati City. Over 30 plates of Rizal's drawings have been digitally recreated by artist-sister team Auri Asuncion Yambao and Grace Asuncion. The first edition of the book will be available in hardcover at all Powerbooks and National Bookstore outlets in time for the holidays.

Michael Williams and Jamie Wilson star in "Stones in his Pockets," onstage at the Republic of Malate

Classical singer and voice therapy and rehabilitation consultant Joscephine Gomez and ENT specialist Dr. Gil M. Vicente will present the revised edition of **The Voice Image Seminar-Workshop** on Nov. 18-19, 1-5 p.m. and Nov. 16 and 23, 2-6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Galleria Manila on ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Gomez will impart training in the scientific and aesthetic aspects of voice production while Dr. Vicente will talk about how to care for the professional voice. For details, call 687-7898.

The Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication will hold a **Web Writing Seminar/Workshop** on Nov. 21-22 at Unit 802 Annapolis Wilshire Plaza, 11 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan. The course will cover techniques and principles in web writing, basic web writing, organizing content and application of graphics. It will also teach the participants how to produce credible and appealing web materials. For details, call Virgie at 724-4564/724-4604 or Ferdie at 725-4228/727-6799.

Women from different denominations speak out on the issues of discrimination and subordination they experience from their respective institutions in a **round table discussion on Women's Rights, Spirituality and Religion** on Nov. 27 from 1-4 p.m. at ESI Building, Miriam College, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Invited speakers are Sr. Helen Graham, Rev. Erah Cabillas and Yasmin Lao of Al' Muja Dilah, a Moro women's organization based in Marawi City. Atty. Karol Ruiz-Austria will tackle how Philippine laws have long been patterned to religious dogma and how it negatively affects women. For details, call the Women-LEAD office at 435-6823 or 436-6738 and look for Lala or Abie.

Established and rising artists display their work in "21/21 Vision" at the Crossroad 22 Convention Center

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

By Jess Abrera

Pampaputi

As part of its anniversary program of honoring the achievement of Philippine Cinema in the '90s, the Film Desk of the Young Critics Circle invites the public to a **symposium on various issues in local filmmaking of the previous decade** on Nov. 21, 2-5 p.m. at the Silangan Hall, 4th Floor, Cultural Center of the Philippines. Filmmaker Nick Deocampo, critic Justino Dormiendo, film professor Grace Javier-Alfonso, entertainment journalist Boy Villasanta, and actress Cherie Pie Picache will share short reflections assessing the decade from the viewpoint of their practice and cineaste Ed Cabagnot will moderate. The symposium will precede the launching of the book *"Sampung Taong Taong Sine*, Philippine Cinema 1990-1999," published by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and the testimonial reunion of Circle honorees of the decade in a presentation titled *"Sampung Taong Sine at Suri"* at the CCP Little Theater at 7 p.m. All events are open to the public. For details, call Jerry Respeto at 931-0396; 0917-3260771; 426-6001 ext. 5320-22.

Dulaang UP stages "Imaginary Invalid" at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater

To complement "Essence and Sympathies," an ongoing exhibition of works by Filipino artists who emigrated abroad, painter-printmaker Bencab and visual artist Bogie Ruiz will both talk about their experiences in London and Singapore and how these have affected their art in a lecture titled **Artists as Expatriate** on Nov. 22, 2-4 p.m. at the Lopez Museum, G/F Benpres Bldg., Exchange Road, Ortigas. This is part of the lecture plus series of the Zero-In: Skin Surface Essence exhibition of the Lopez-Ayala-Ateneo-Museo Pambata museums. Fee is P100. Contact Fanny at 449-2355.

The youth are invited to join the **National Summit: Filipino Youth in ICT**. Highlights of the program include a series of plenary sessions focusing on youth, ICT and S&T education. For S&T, it will include topics on genetic engineering, biotechnology, tropical diseases, environmental concerns and other relevant issues affecting our country today. A three-day exhibition fair is also scheduled to promote the new and emerging technologies in the world today. This youth assembly will be held at the University of Sto. Tomas-Thomas Aquinas Research Complex, España, Manila from Nov. 27 to Dec. 4. Registration fee is P3,000 per participant inclusive of meals, kits and handouts. For details, call (02) 536-3092/ 525-8752/525-8418 (telefax).

The Pambansang Samahan sa Sikolohiyang Pilipino and the Dept. of Psychology of De La Salle University will hold the **28th Annual Conference on Filipino Psychology** with the theme *"Iba't Ibang Mukha ng Pamilyang Pilipino sa Nagbabagang Panahon"* on Nov. 27-29 at the Yuchengco Seminar Room, DLSU, Taft Avenue, Manila. For inquiries, contact the PSSP secretariat at 412-8968 (telefax).

Supervoice Music and Theater Foundation is now offering the following **original Filipino musicals for booking** until April 2004: *"Pabaon,"* about the rights and needs of children; *"Windang,"* a story about the ill effects of drug addiction, and *"Hesus no Buhay,"* about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The musicals were written by Sheila Noreen Lopez. Interested parties may contact Norrie Lopez at 564-2667 or 0917-4225367.

A **Renovation Sale** is ongoing at Butaka Antique Shop (formerly Heritage Antique Shop) until Nov. 30. Some of the items on sale are thick rectangular tabletops made from whole tree trunks with natural age rings, round tables, altar tables, bishop's chairs, *platera*, *aparador*, religious icons, *lusong* and *batya*. The shop is located at Unit 102, G/F, Mile Long Building, Amorsolo cor. Javier Sts., Makati City. For inquiries, call 813-3755.

The alumni of **La Salle Greenhills Batch '84** will hold a **Grand Reunion and Foundation Launch** on Nov. 18 at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio Global City in preparation for the general alumni homecoming on February 2004.

A Little Quality Time

Believe it or not, it's nearing Christmas again, and what better way to celebrate the spirit of giving than by sharing your time and skills with those truly in need? SIM features non-profit groups that always appreciate any volunteers to spend time with their needy wards. It is never too early to begin the season of giving to the less fortunate. Let's start now. Listings courtesy of Hands on Manila.

1. KYTHE-Book Buddies: Kythe needs four to five volunteers who will spend time and play with pediatric patients, particularly children with cancer, at the following hospitals: East Avenue Medical Center, AFP Medical Center, National Children's Hospital and Philippine Orthopedic Center. An orientation is required. For inquiries, please call Justine Sababan at 922-6370 or Hands on Manila at 843-7044 or 843-5231.

2. CHILDHOPE-The Breakfast Club: Ten volunteers are needed to share breakfast with streetchildren. There are activities that involve value formation, arts and crafts and group dynamics. The Club will be held on Dec. 7, 14, 21 and 28, 9-11 a.m. at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. For inquiries, please call Abigail Francisco at 917-8668.

3. Rotary Center-Saturday Academy: Ten volunteers are needed to help underprivileged children keep up with their schoolwork, either individually or in groups. Saturday Academy will be held on Dec. 7 and 14, 2-4 p.m. at 12-41 Rotary Drive, NGC Housing Project Pilot Area, Brgy. Commonwealth, Quezon City. For inquiries, please call Jeff Centeno at 867-8523 or 0919-3128235.

4. In Touch Community Service-Pangarap Shelter-Skill and Art Therapy Workshop: One or two volunteers needed to use their art and crafts skills to uplift underprivileged children by facilitating a skill and art therapy workshop for former streetchildren, organized by In Touch Community Services and Pangarap Shelter. The workshops are set on Dec. 4, 6, 11 and 13, from 2-4 p.m. at 2503 Taft Ave., cor. Escobal St., Pasay City. For inquiries, please call Serene Gavelas at 893-1893 or 893-7606.

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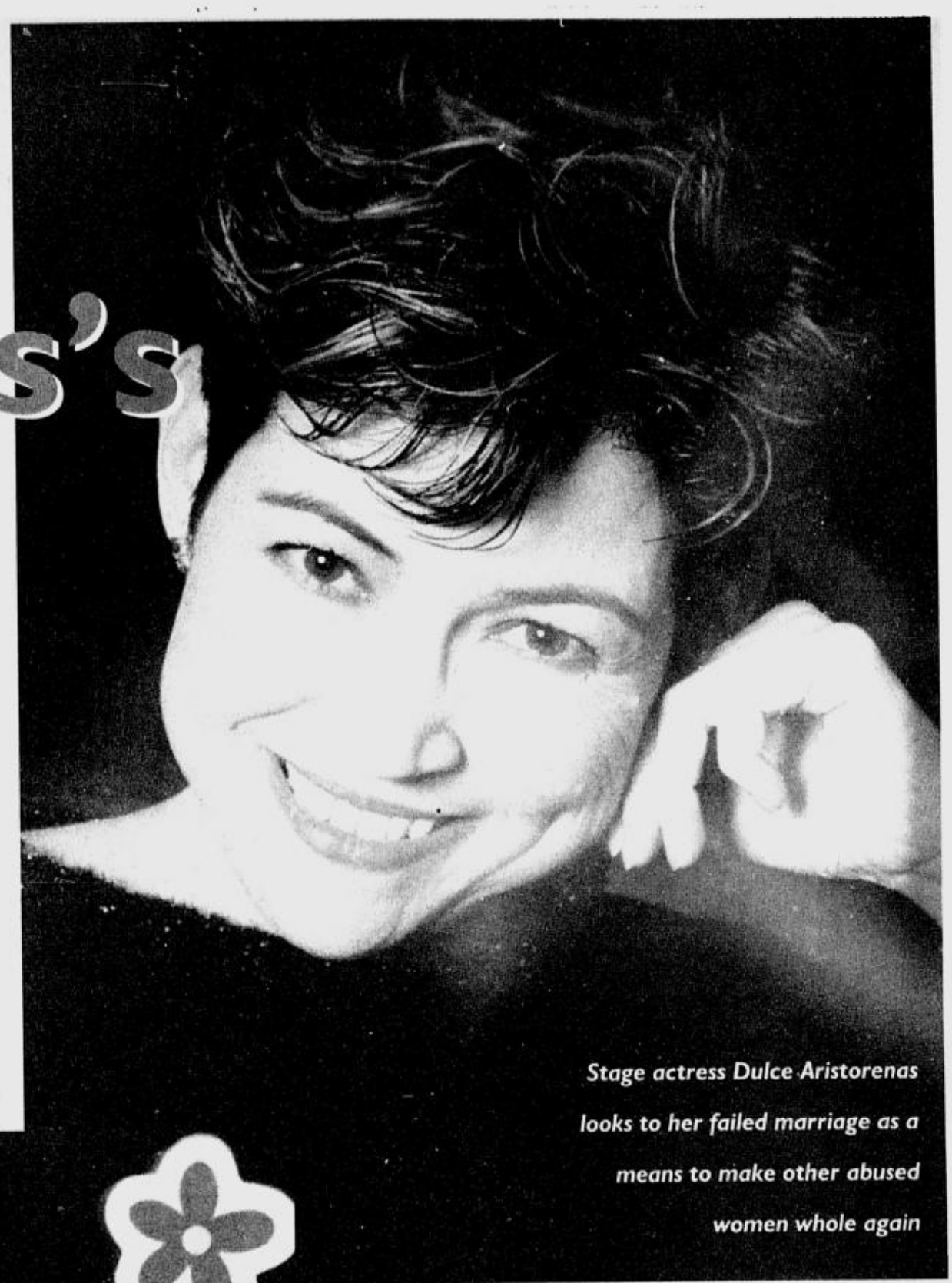
Survivors' Tales

By Cora Llamas
Photographs by Rudy Esperas

An Actress's Awakening



Stage actress Dulce Aristorenas looks to her failed marriage as a means to make other abused women whole again

ENLIGHTENMENT can come at a very steep price. But as it brings one's life mission into focus, it can be ultimately liberating.

These days, stage actress Dulce Aristorenas talks about women empowerment like it's her life's mission. Her shoulders readily lend support to friends and strangers agonizing over abandonment and philandering husbands. This broadcast manager recently co-produced a commercial on marital rape that ran for months on TV and served as eye opener to many. The 30-seconder shows a man peeing in a dirty toilet. Once, when he couldn't lift the toilet cover, the man is shown angrily and repeatedly kicking the bowl while cursing and stomping his feet. Dulce's voice-over then cuts in: *"Kung nagpapagamit ka kahit ayaw mo, wala kang pinag-iba sa inidoro."* (If you allow yourself to be used for sex without your consent, you're just like a toilet bowl). The last line reads: "*Labanan ang* (resist) marital rape."

The commercial made waves. The positive response was such that national dailies and tabloids ran its print version for free. Neither were detractors silent, and their objections stunned Dulce. "Men would call Gabriela, the commercial's beneficiary, and say, 'What marital rape? If you're married, you're supposed to give everything. (Women) should be thankful we still go home to them!"

With "Vagina Monologues" playwright Eve Ensler

At first glance, Dulce's awakening appears to stem from her long involvement with the immensely popular "Vagina Monologues" ("TVM"), Eve Ensler's convention-shattering play on women's sexuality where Dulce read a major part.

"TVM" may have set off the spark, but the embers had started to burn long before. But to protect the privacy of some people, Dulce refuses to go into the details of an ill-fated relationship that lasted for more than a decade and left her a 15-year-old boy whom she adores.

"I was hurt," she says of the first few years after the separation, when her heart "was put through a meat-grinder."

But she does not blame anyone for it, she says. it. "I made a choice and have to accept the backlash of that choice. I have to stand up for myself."

Part of that choice was an early retirement, just as she was riding the crest of success in the advertising industry. She had begun theater work in 1979 after graduation, appearing in Repertory Philippines' "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof" and on the chorus of "Annie" with a kid named Lea Salonga, when her parents insisted that she get a real job. In the 1980s, the young Dulce introduced the first two MTV ads in the Philippines, featuring Gary Valenciano and Martin Nievera. By the time she retired in the early '90s, she was already ensconced in the management committee of an advertising giant.

Her new son and a heart operation firmed up her choice. "All my life I was working, and I realized that I wanted to take care of my son and see him grow up."

It had been a charmed life. Her ex made sure she and her boy wanted for nothing: fancy cars, a posh house, vacations in Hongkong and Singapore. But somewhere along the way, unhappiness begun to set in. "Why did I feel this way when I had everything?" she asked herself time and again.

Flash forward to the present. She can answer the question now. A lot of it has to do with fear, insecurity, and the intimidating prospect of starting all over again without a husband by her side. Not willing to confront the issue, she dismissed the feeling, until it was too late.

"The break-up was so devastating that everything just sort of crumbled. When you're alone, that's when it hits you. I had to support my son and put food on the table. By God's grace, I had a job at a time when it was hard to get one."

These days, perhaps in response to her own failed relationship and her association with "TVM" and the marital rape commercial, women share their problems with her. She finds their predicament mirroring hers years ago. "These women would tell me, 'I can't leave him because it would destroy his reputation. Or, 'I'm 48 years old, how will I support myself? He will get the children from me.' Then there are these wealthy women who may have their Volvos, but do they have the freedom to say, 'No, I don't want you to have a *querida*?"

Dulce shakes her head at society's double standard: "I'm not asking the women to break up their marriage, but I believe that a woman has to find herself first, and to realize that she doesn't have to depend on a man to make her happy."

In-between the break-up and "TVM," Dulce, now a broadcast manager for the Makati-based ad agency AB Communications, found spiritual renewal in a Christian church. Then there were the yoga sessions with spiritual-minded friends like Gilda Cordero-Fernando and Mariel Francisco. The meditation helped her to "know (herself) and find out why (she) was hurting."

Looking back at her failed marriage, she wishes she had kept the communications line open with her ex. "We could have talked about it and ended up, not exactly friends, but as people communicating with each other. We don't communicate these days."

It also matters to her that other angry, hurting women do find some measure of healing.

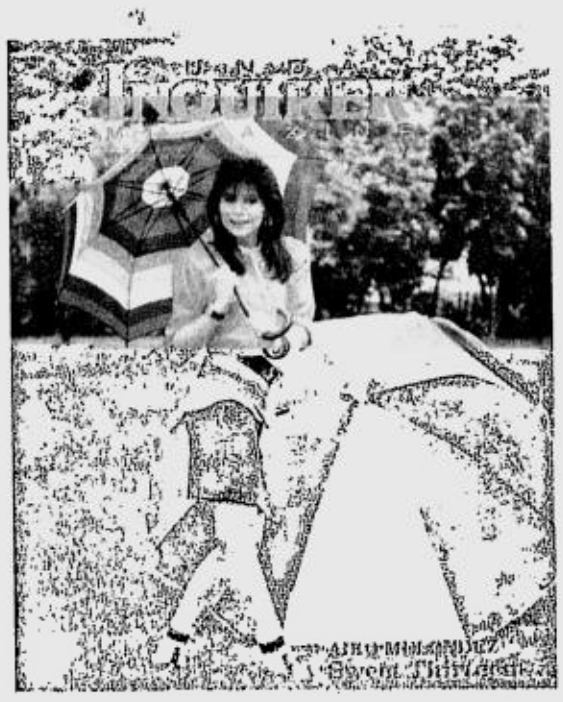
"I'm still being invited to give lectures about advertising and I'm amazed that 90 percent of the audience are women. In these lectures, I start my crusade to re-educate the woman about the way we've been brought up, how we've been told that being wife and mother is foremost and that you keep your marriage even if you're abused, etc."

While Dulce says she plans to get more involved with women's groups like Gabriela and the UP-PGH Women Help Desk, she says she remains human. "I'm not Miss Goody Two-Shoes, or think that I'm the vanguard and savior of all women. What I am trying to say is, learn the lesson and then move on. I think I've learned the lesson."

Backpages

Aiko Off Screen

The pretty actress overcame personal obsctales to enter the political arena



She was only 13 when she appeared as SIM's cover subject in its Sept.10, 1989 issue, but already Aiko Melendez was as adept at addressing rumors, as she is today. Talking about her estranged father, Jimi Melendez, who passed away some time ago, Aiko displays wisdom beyond her years, saying *"pagbali-baliktarin mo man ang mundo, siya pa rin ang tatay ko.* (He was still my father)." A precocious child, Aiko did well in school, receiving honors despite her hectic schedule. This perhaps, foreshadowed a successful career in show business, where she won Best Actress for "Maalala Mo Kaya—The Movie" in both the 13th Annual Film Academy of the Philippines Awards and the 1994 Manila Film Festival. And a gutsy move—entry into the political arena—brought its own challenges. As councilor for Quezon City, Aiko was allegedly linked to Mayor Sonny Belmonte at the height of the controversy surrounding her marriage to Jomari Yllana, which was subsequently annulled. Not one to back down, Aiko faced the controversy head on, with the same feistiness and determination she has displayed over the years. Now back on TV and with the 2004 polls on the way, Councilor Aiko ponders her next big move.

Mia Saavedra

Cargo vessel sinks off Palawan; 19 reported missing

Story on PAGE A2

New California gov has taste for the finest

LOS ANGELES— The mighty tycoon in "Citizen Kane" had a little wooden sled—"Rosebud"—to remind him of his humble origins. Citizen Arnold Schwarzenegger has the old M47 tank from his

NEW/ A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Joe Burgos, press freedom hero, dies

By Ceres P. Doyo

BURGOS

LONG live Jose "Joe" Burgos Jr.

Champion of press freedom and pillar of vigilant and independent journalism during

JOE/ A20

e[illegible]k@inquirer.com.ph [illegible]day, November 17, 2003 ★★ 86 pages / 8 sections / vol. 18 / no. 342 P15 website: www.inq7.net

A 5-1 UNDERDOG, rapid-punching Manny Pacquiao (right) finishes off his Mexican foe Marco Antonio Barrera in the 11th round. REUTERS

Pacquiao hammers Barrera in lion's den

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—He followed the perfect game plan at the perfect time.

Filipino ring idol Manny Pacquiao put on a superb performance yesterday, showing the world how to use power in boxing as he stopped Mexican featherweight great Marco Antonio Barrera in the 11th round of their 12-round non-title bout at the Alamodome here.

The aggressive Pacquiao, the International Boxing Federation (IBF) superbantamweight champion but a 5-1 underdog in the fight, knocked down the veteran, heavily favored Barrera with a left straight to the face in the third round and had him backpedalling from there with a relentless attack.

The end for Barrera—and the cheering for the mostly Mexican fight gallery—came with four seconds left in the 11th round when his brother and corner man, Jorge Barrera, stopped the fight as the southpaw Pacquiao battered the Mexican who was helplessly pinned against the ropes.

"I'm surprised he lasted that long," said the 24-year-old Pacquiao, who had to put on weight for the chance to gain international ring fame against Barrera, ranked No. 3 among the world's best pound-for-pound fighters.

"Very early on, I knew I was going to knock him out," said the former bakery worker from General Santos City, who came back snorting with fire after a first-round knockdown that was actually a slip.

No less than President Macapagal-Arroyo led the nation in exulting over the victory that assured Pacquiao a $350,000 purse—the biggest in his ca-

PACQUIAO / A8

Erap travel OK tied to GMA election bid

Decision intended to win votes–Etta

By Carlito Pablo,
Gil Cabacungan Jr.
and Blanche S. Rivera

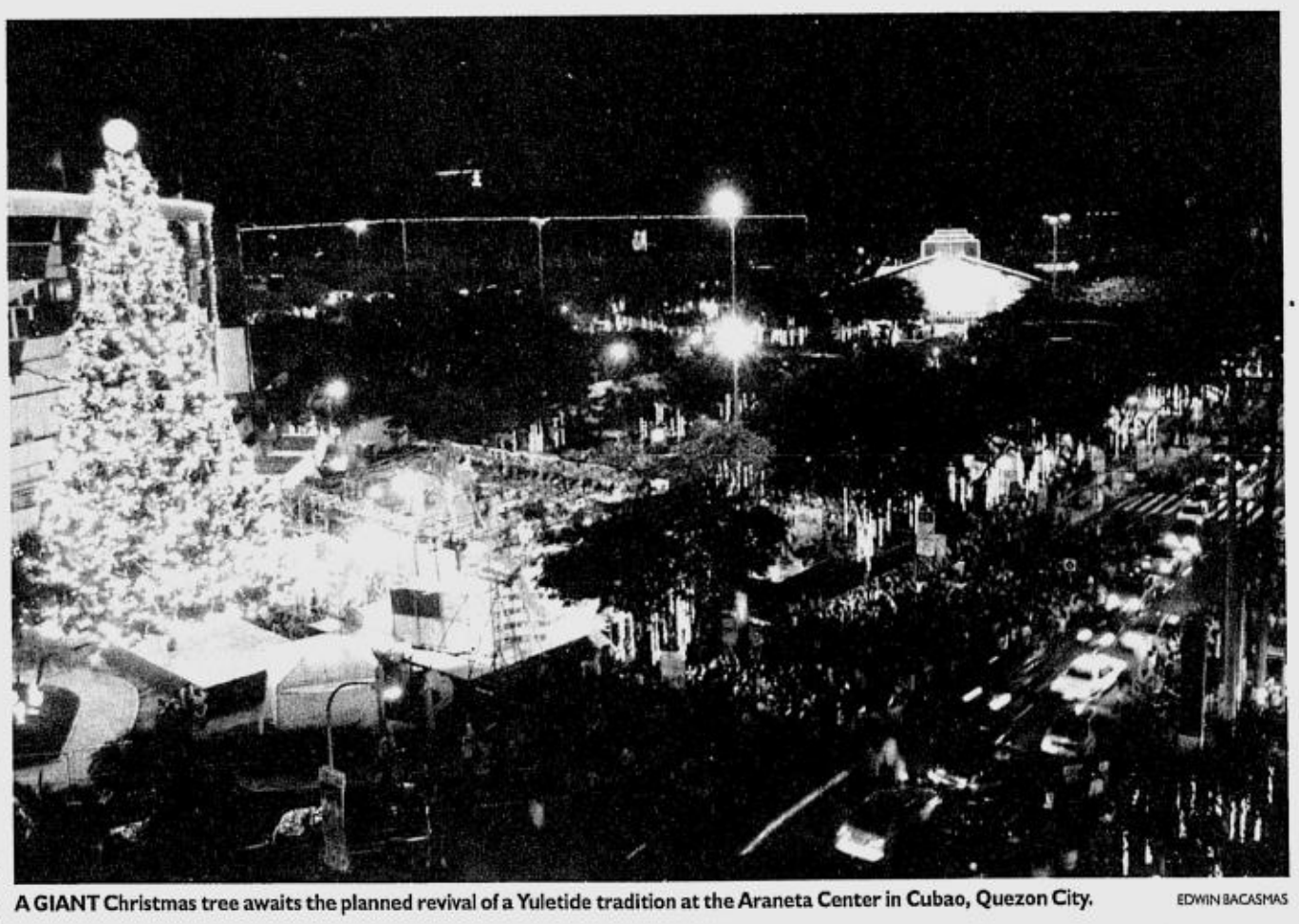
THE MAY 2004 elections are behind President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to support deposed leader Joseph Estrada's request for US-based medical treatment, a religious leader and at least two lawmakers claimed yesterday.

"Humans have mixed motives, and election time is coming. This move should also win votes. It's not realistic to say that it's purely compassion," Jesuit provincial superior Fr. Romeo Intengan told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Akbayan party-list Rep. Loretta Ann "Etta" Rosales did not mince words. "It is all about getting the votes for 2004 ... One of the things (President Macapagal-Arroyo) has long learned is that the Iglesia ni Cristo votes are important votes in winning any national election."

Rosales, one of those who led the campaign to stop the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., said in a strongly worded statement: "Perhaps, the INC asks only two things for Erap, whom it has openly supported and continues to support. Give him house arrest or let him go on exile."

ERAP/ A8



A GIANT Christmas tree awaits the planned revival of a Yuletide tradition at the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City. EDWIN BACASMAS

Tallest Christmas tree aglitter anew in Cubao

By Volt Contreras

THE COUNTRY'S tallest Christmas tree is aglitter again at the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City. But for two generations who looked up to this shopping and entertainment hub for some Yuletide cheer the past 45 years, one favorite purveyor of fantasy is now a dark corner.

When he was a boy, Supt. Benigno Durana said his Iloilo-based family would usually visit relatives in Metro Manila for the holidays, and the vacation would not be complete without him and his cousins going to see the famous mechanical doll show of the COD department store.

Durana, now the top police officer in charge of the Cubao area, was once just another child lost in wonder as the motorized puppets on the store's façade acted out Nativity themes before nightly crowds.

"We were kids who filled a jeepney to come here, hot dogs in hand," said Durana, commander of Station 7 whose turf covers the Araneta Center.

But to him and thousands of others who considered Cubao their childhood Christmas village, the COD's closure as well as the playful cast of automatons bowing out last year was perhaps the most telling

TALLEST/ A20

Impeach ruling shows high court's activist role

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

FOR the second time in three years, the Supreme Court halted the descent of the country into political chaos when it declared unconstitutional the second impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. on Nov. 10.

The decision broke the highly explosive impasse between the court and the House of Representatives.

But clearly stamping the template of the Supreme Court as an interventionist, if not activist, institution arbitrating constitutional conflict is the more significant and far-reaching implication of the ruling.

The standoff was the crucible that forged a new doctrine justifying judicial activism.

While these interventions generated partisan political controversies, they undeniably cast the court in the role of savior that averted the breakdown of the constitutional system at a time when the political sector was being rocked by discord, among which were the May 1 rebellion, the gridlock in the Senate, and the failed July 27 coup.

It is in the context of this turbulent milieu that the court's activism, as a stabilizing element of Philippine democracy, should be examined and understood.

The decision was an extension of the court's intervention on Jan. 20, 2001, when Davide led the majority of the justices to swear in then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as President, following the collapse of the administration of Joseph Estrada. In 2001, the court intervened as the specter of civil disorder menaced the country when supporters of Estrada stormed Malacañang.

On Nov. 10, the court asserted its broadened power of judicial review (enhanced by the 1987

IMPEACH/ A7

2 Black Hawks crash in Iraq; 17 American soldiers killed

MOSUL, Iraq—Two Black Hawk helicopters collided and crashed, killing 17 American soldiers in the US military's worst single loss of life since the Iraq war began.

Five soldiers were injured and one was missing, the military said Saturday. The US military said the cause of the crash was under investigation.

But witnesses said one of the helicopters was hit by ground fire before it crashed into the other helicopter, while a US soldier said he heard reports that one of the choppers was hit by a rocket.

As the US death toll in Iraq passed the 400 mark, the Iraqi Governing Council endorsed a US plan on Saturday that would create a provisional government by June. The transfer of power would provide Washington with an "exit strategy" in the face of escalating guerrilla warfare.

The two Black Hawks, which belonged to the 101st Airborne Division, went down in residential neighborhoods of Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city.

A statement by the US command said one helicopter was carrying a quick reaction force and the other ferried soldiers on a transport mission in northern Iraq.

"The cause of the incident is under investigation," the statement said.

But an Iraqi policeman said at least one of the Black Hawks was hit by ground fire.

"They hit it with a missile," said policeman Saddam Abdel Sattar. "I was in the Army, I know these things."

Another witness, Yousra Khedr, said she saw one helicopter above her house before hearing the sound of a loud boom.

"I saw the sky light up, it was like thunder and lightning," she said, adding that after the initial boom she heard gunfire in the

2 BLACK HAWKS/ A19

A CRANE lifts the remains of one of two Black Hawk helicopters which reportedly collided in mid-air in Iraq, killing 17 US servicemen. AFP

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2003

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Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/11/17/03

Gringo vows to back 'true' reconciliation

By Christine O. Avendaño

OPPOSITION Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan yesterday vowed to support President Macapagal-Arroyo's call for reconciliation "unconditionally" only if she puts her money where her mouth is, or substance into the effort.

"If she persists in her programs, if this goes beyond speeches and words, and is given substance, I will support it unconditionally," Honasan said. The former colonel-turned-legislator has been charged with masterminding the July 27 Oakwood mutiny by disgruntled junior military officers.

"It's a leap of faith," said Honasan of Ms Macapagal's call for reconciliation, in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

Honasan said he viewed Malacañang's apparent stand not to object to the possible departure of deposed President Joseph Estrada for the United States to seek medical treatment as "an indication of the seriousness" of Ms Macapagal's reconciliation call.

But he said that "beyond addressing the limited physical needs of Estrada," the President's call must "cover a wide swath of beneficiaries, including millions of Filipinos."

As chair of the Senate committee on peace, unification and reconciliation, Honasan said he supports the President's unity call, stressing that peace, unity and reconciliation are the "minimum requirements" for the country to get back on track economically, politically and socially.

Honasan is in hiding and has not surfaced beyond a few appearances at the Senate since he was charged with being a leader of the July 27 coup attempt.

In the interview, Honasan also took exception to "irresponsible statements" made by some intelligence officials which linked him and the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. faction that he heads to alleged fresh destabilization attempts against the government.

An unidentified military intelligence official had said that last week's mammoth rally on Ayala Avenue in Makati City, which was violently broken up by authorities, was backed by an armed component made up of Guardians members.

"How irresponsible to make such statements with the official not identifying himself and not coursing his evaluation through the normal conduits like the President, the Senate and Congress," Honasan said.

He said he believes the rumors were the handiwork of a "minority of hawkish" officials in the intelligence community who want to "promote an environment of destabilization, to justify their asking for higher budgets, and keep the national leadership in a state of paranoia."

These officials, he said, would implicate people accused of being behind past destabilization plots because this was the easier thing to do.

"The President should put her foot down," he said, to put a stop to the wild accusations.

Honasan likewise denied Presidential Security Adviser Abraham Puruganan's claim that he had met with the late Col. Panfilo Villaruel before the latter seized the Ninoy Aquino International Airport control tower a week ago.

Villaruel and his aide, Lt. (s.g.) Ricardo Catchillar, were subsequently gunned down by special police units who had been ordered to assault them.

Honasan said he had never met Villaruel and only knew him by his "reputation."

The senator, who advocates the establishment of a national anti-crime and antiterrorism information system, is also behind the National Recovery Program, a set of guidelines aimed at reforming Philippine society.

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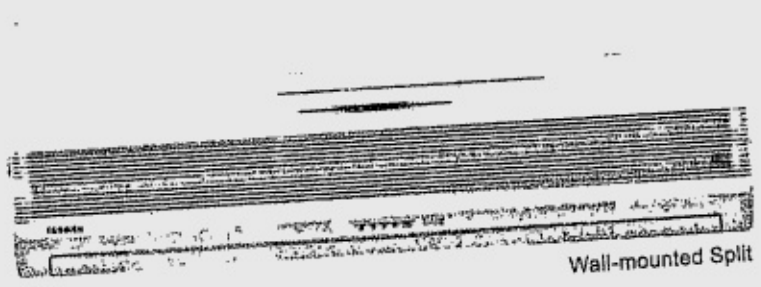

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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO.: 4404, SERIES OF 2003

Reforms resulting from Oakwood mutiny on the way

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE DEPARTMENT of National Defense has created a 25-man body that would implement reforms recommended by US and Filipino military experts to boost the Armed Forces of the Philippines' capability to respond to security threats.

The committee, to be headed by former AFP deputy chief of staff Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, will come up with an action plan and monitor the implementation of a landmark reform program in the AFP as recommended by the Joint Defense Assessment (JDA) group to the defense department.

The creation of the defense group comes nearly four months after disgruntled junior officers launched a rebellion against the government.

In a statement, Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the JDA was an offshoot of the state visit of President Macapagal to the US in May when President George W. Bush promised a comprehensive review of Philippine security requirements to determine how the US could best help its ally in its fight against terrorism.

Both leaders later endorsed the recommendations of the JDA report during Bush's visit to Manila on Oct. 18.

"The purpose of the JDA is to assist the government of the Philippines in developing a defense program that will improve the ability of its to respond to threats to Philippine security," they said in a joint statement.

The Philippine military is considered among the weakest and most corrupt in the Asian region.

During his visit last month, Bush promised to provide technical assistance, field expertise and millions of dollars in funds for a five-year plan to modernize and reform the Philippine military.

Military experts from the US Pacific Command and the AFP recently completed the study and submitted a 10-point recommendation to be implemented in the next five years.

The military reforms call for the implementation of a strategy-driven multi-defense planning system; the development of accurate baseline data on critical functional areas; development of effective personnel management; increase in the defense budget and the improvement of management controls, and the execution of its modernization program.

The JDA report also called on the military to create a professional acquisition workforce, policies and organizations, and to improve operational readiness rates of its key systems, operational and training capacity, capability to conduct civil-military operations, and operational level expertise by exploiting subject matter experts. *With AP and AFP*

Coast Guard hunts 19 missing at sea

BACOLOD CITY—The Coast Guard yesterday searched for 19 passengers of a cargo vessel which sank near Cuyo, Palawan, at the height of tropical storm Weng.

Chief Petty Officer Marcial Lindogan, acting Coast Guard commander in San Jose, Antique, said the motor launch Susan left Sipalay City, some 180 km south of here, for Palawan at 10 p.m. on Thursday but sank at about 9 a.m. the following day.

Five of the 24 passengers were rescued by fishermen near Hamtik, Antique. They were identified as Arvic Galea, Evelyn Galea, Epifanio Canago, Epifania Canupin and Rodrigo Gepelgon.

Lindogan said the Susan had picked up 300 sacks of salt in Guimaras and was to go straight to Palawan.

"We do not know why it stopped in Sipalay but the crew was said to have unloaded 200 sacks of salt there and picked up passengers," he said. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

After Davide, JDV vows to deliver on nat'l budget

By Carlito Pablo

AFTER SUCCESSFULLY defusing a constitutional crisis by marshalling majority of the House membership to decisively defeat the Davide impeachment complaint, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. said yesterday this time he will "mobilize large-scale support" for the approval of the 2004 national budget by the House this week.

The House of Representatives resumes sessions today with the P864.8-billion proposed budget for 2004 on top of the agenda.

De Venecia said timely approval of the appropriations bill will prove that the "friendship and alliance" of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats and the Nationalist People's Coalition remain strong and viable.

Members of the NPC spearheaded the impeachment of SC Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

De Venecia said that Lakas, NPC and other members of the House's "Sunshine Coalition" will "now focus efforts during the remaining weeks of the 12th Congress toward battling poverty and terrorism."

"An overwhelming majority of the parties in the House favor approval of the national budget which has been delayed by the impeachment," De Venecia said.

Rep. Rolando Andaya (Lakas, Camarines Sur), chair of the appropriations committee, the lead body in budget deliberations, said that the ruckus over the Davide impeachment has delayed the House's budget timetable by two weeks.

Andaya said that, personally, he wants the budget bill "brought out of the Batasan gate and on to the Senate at the soonest possible time."

"Reconciliation and appropriation can be done at the same time," he said.

Andaya was referring to expected "rear-guard action" to be taken by congressmen who supported the impeachment complaint against Davide.

A number of lawmakers identified with the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) said last week that the Davide impeachment complaint had retained at least the minimum number of 76 signatories required for its transmittal to the Senate.

They said that the SC ruling of Nov. 10 declaring as unconstitutional the House rules on impeachment was not yet final and executory.

On that same day, the House voted 115-77 in favor of upholding the decision of the high tribunal.

But the NPC has decided to move on, with its leaders saying they're prepared to leave the controversial impeachment case behind them.

De Venecia has been trying to reunify the House following the divisive Davide impeachment. He himself survived a motion to unseat him during the chamber's deliberations on Nov. 10.

Andaya said that efforts to mend fences within the House could go hand-in-hand with the resumption of floor debates on the 2004 budget.

"Besides, it's time for our senators to break some sweat," Andaya said.

Andaya noted that wrapping up an appropriations bill could be "as difficult as resolving the crisis that the House move to impeach the Chief Justice had triggered."

He noted that the government is cash-strapped. While it's 2004 budget is P864.8 billion, it would have to "borrow at least P1 billion a day next year," he said.

Andaya said this borrowing is needed to bridge the government's budget deficit and pay part of its gargantuan P3.2-trillion debt.

Businessmen rethink Cha-cha

THE COUNTRY'S businessmen are having second thoughts about their plan to endorse Speaker Jose de Venecia's pitch for constitutional reforms following the brouhaha over the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

Industrialist Raul T. Concepcion said that most businessmen were turned off by the blatant political maneuverings by members of the House of Representatives who signed the impeachment complaint against Davide.

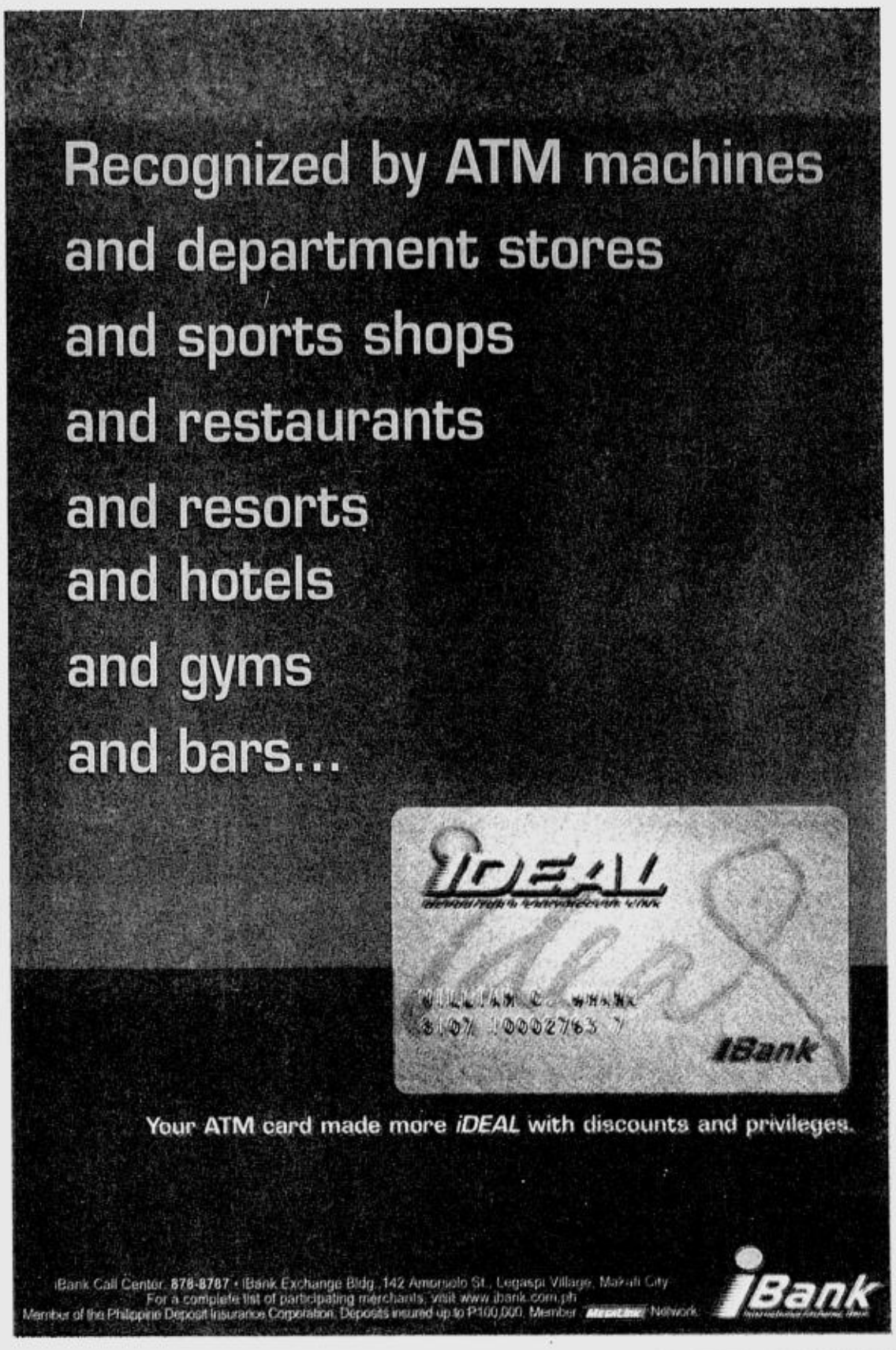
Concepcion said businessmen saw the complaint as politically motivated. "This has led them to rethink their support of De Venecia's proposal to amend the Constitution through a constituent assembly next year," he said.

A source said members of the board of trustees of an influential business organization were poised to endorse De Venecia's Charter change (Cha-cha) strategem but decided to defer their backing when news of Davide's impeachment came out elicited strong reaction from the public.

De Venecia had been counting on the support of the business sector to gain broader support for his charter change proposals.

Concepcion said businessmen were inclined to support a shift to a parliamentary system of government to solve the country's chronic political gridlock that has hampered government from focusing on economic development.

De Venecia is pushing for a constituent assembly that would be made up of members of the Senate and House sitting in joint session as a more practical and faster mode of amending the constitution by next year as against a constitutional convention being backed by the Senate. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*



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PCGG: Marcoses looking to US to mediate

By Alcuin Papa

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government (PCGG) yesterday accused the Marcos family of trying to undermine the July 15 ruling of the Supreme Court that declare that Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos had amassed ill-gotten wealth during their 20 years in power, including the $638 million deposits now in escrow in the Philippine National Bank.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said the Marcoses, through their foreign lawyers, have been moving to quash the high court's decision in an apparent bid to hold on to their assets.

He said that members of the family are planning to have the assets subjected to mediation in the US where a settlement will be discussed.

The PCGG is the agency tasked with recovering the ill-gotten wealth of the family of the late dictator.

Last Sept. 4, Swiss lawyer Bruno de Preux, representing Irene Marcos-Araneta and Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., filed an appeal before the Swiss Federal Court to overturn the Aug. 4, 2003 position of the Swiss Federal Ministry of Justice, Carranza said.

The Ministry of Justice had said that the $638 million in Swiss deposits now being held in escrow could be turned over to the Philippine government on the basis of the July 15 SC decision.

In a separate appeal before the Swiss Federal Court on Sept. 12, Dominique Poncet, a lawyer representing Imelda, asked the court to order the Swiss Ministry of Justice to rectify its position and to declare that the Philippine government could not dispose of the $638 million fund in escrow.

Swiss lawyer Patrick Foetisch, representing the Lichenstein-based "establishments" or "anstalts" which the PCGG claimed were set up by the Marcoses to launder their ill-gotten wealth, also filed the same appeal before the Ministry of Justice on Sept. 16.

In response to these appeals, the Swiss Federal Ministry of Justice said on Oct. 1 that the $638 million "are clearly of criminal origin" and that "the decision issued by the Supreme Court of the Philippines on July 15, 2003 had confirmed this way of thinking."

On Oct. 28, Bongbong, through his lawyer John Bartko, wrote a letter to Circuit Mediator Mary Schlepp of the US Court of Appeals proposing that the "alleged Marcos assets," which include the $638 million in escrow and $35 million in Arelma (one of the "anstalts") now being held by Hawaii District Judge Manuel Real, be subjected to a mediation in the US where "the possibility of settlement" will be discussed.

Bartko also asked the US Court of Appeals to stop hearing the Philippine government's appeal against the "worldwide injunction" issued by Real. The government claimed it has sovereign immunity and is beyond the jurisdiction of US courts.

"It is obvious that the Marcoses want a "mediation" in the US to delay and undermine the finalization and enforcement of the July 15 Philippine Supreme Court decision," Carranza said.

In response to the request for mediation by the Marcoses, the government, through its lawyer Steve Bomse, informed Schlepp on Nov. 5, that it is "not willing and cannot legally submit to 'mediation.'" It cited the SC's July 15 decision declaring the Marcos assets as ill-gotten wealth and forfeiting them in favor of the government.

As this developed, the PCGG yesterday reiterated its call for the removal of Manila Judge Oscar Barrientos for his alleged bias in favor of Imelda when he allowed her to travel abroad and even extended her trip.

In a letter to Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., PCGG chair Haydee Yorac also asked that three other Marcos cases pending before Barrientos' sala be transfered to another court.

Marcos is facing 32 cases of violation of a Central Bank circular, known as the "dollar-salting" law, before Barrientos' court.

Strunk denies killing Nida in US interview

SACRAMENTO—The husband of a slain Filipino movie star denied killing his wife, saying he lost all his possessions because of her death and calling allegations of a dispute over money absurd.

In an interview with The Associated Press Saturday, Roger Lawrence Strunk said he was happy that a federal magistrate last week rejected an extradition request by the Philippine government.

"I'm very, very glad and I'm relieved to be out of jail, but to be rejoicing? No," Strunk said. "My wife's murder is still a mystery and I don't know what happened."

Nida Blanca, 65, was stabbed to death and her body was found in her car in a Manila suburb in November 2001.

Filipino prosecutors alleged that Strunk, another man and two unidentified women murdered Blanca after a confrontation. Authorities claimed Strunk was upset with his wealthy wife over money.

Blanca, who appeared in 163 movies, was one of the Philippines' most revered cultural figures. Attorneys had described the case against Strunk as the Filipino equivalent of the 1995 O.J. Simpson murder trial in the United States, enthralling the entire nation.

Federal marshals arrested Strunk, 63, in Tracy, California, east of San Francisco, last May at the request of the Philippine justice department. He had moved back to the United States two months after Blanca's death.

Strunk said prosecutors' allegations made no sense because he and his wife's marriage in the United States was never deemed legal in the Philippines, so he couldn't inherit her wealth.

Strunk had initially promised to return to the Philippines voluntarily, but said later his attorneys warned him not to go back because of "stupid attacks and distorted truths and fabrications" by prosecutors.

On Wednesday, US Magistrate Gregory Hollows ruled the Philippine government didn't provide even the minimal amount of evidence required to justify Strunk's extradition, and said that what was provided was conflicting and suspicious.

Strunk, a former American actor also known as Rod Lauren Strunk, and Bianca were married in 1981. *AP*

Look into customs scam, Palace orders

MALACAÑANG has ordered the Department of Finance to look into ex-Sen. Francisco Tatad's allegations that unscrupulous customs bonded warehouse operators have fleeced the government of up to P100 billion in duties over the last 17 years.

Deputy presidential spokesperson Ricardo Saludo said the DOF, which oversees the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs, will be assisted by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission and the Ombudsman if it is ascertained that Tatad's allegations are true.

Tatad had claimed the customs bonded warehouse scam involved importers and officials of the DOF, BOC and Insurance Commission.

He said the bonded warehouse operators have not only refused to liquidate the duties and taxes due to the government, they may have also been collecting reinsurance payments on their goods.

The government allows the operation of bonded warehouses to enable the country's manufacturers to bring in imported raw materials tax-free on condition that the finished products would be re-exported.

Some importers, however, divert their duty-free imports to the local market, which not only poses unfair trade competition to local players but deprives the government of revenues. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, November 17, 2003
33rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Mac 1;10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63

Gospel: Lk 18:35-43

When Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the road, begging. As he heard the crowd passing by, he inquired what it was, and they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was going by. Then he cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" The people in front scolded him, "Be quiet!" but he cried out all the more, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stopped and ordered the blind man to be brought to him, and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the man said, "Lord, that I may see!" Jesus said, "Receive your sight, your faith has saved you." At once the blind man was able to see, and he followed Jesus, giving praise to God. And all the people who were there also praised God.

Commentary

"Lord, that I may see!" In the gospel of Mark, the blind man was named Bartimeus. He can be our model. He is persistent in his longing to meet Jesus. His response to the call of Jesus is immediate and eager. He knows precisely what he wants: Lord, let me receive my sight." The gift of sight has a deeper meaning, it symbolizes the revelation of Jesus to the world. Jesus is the light of the world, and whoever walks with him will not walk in darkness.

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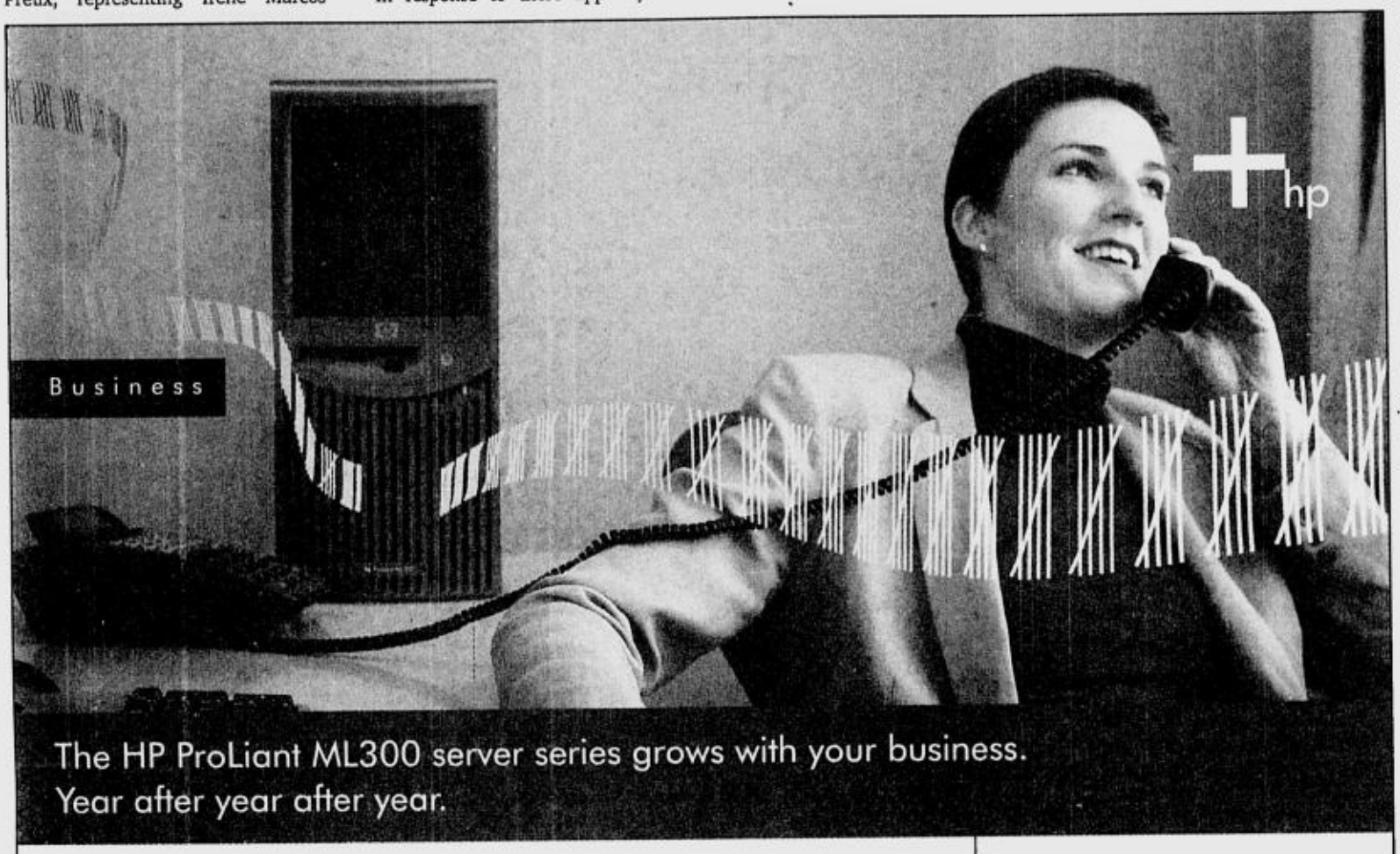

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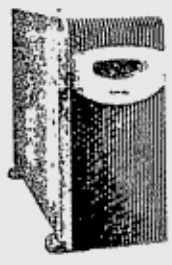

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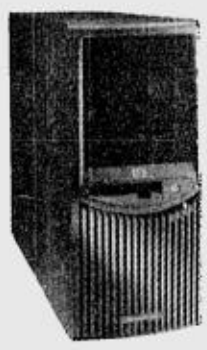

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RP condemns terror attacks in Turkey

THE PHILIPPINES on Sunday condemned the twin bomb attacks on synagogues in Turkey that killed 20 people and wounded 300 others.

"Our department of foreign affairs has sent its sympathies to those who died and were wounded in this attack, and the government condemns this act," said presidential spokesperson Ricardo Saludo.

Saludo said local authorities were on high alert to thwart similar bombings in the Philippines, which experts have said could be a target for Islamic terrorists like the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI).

Saludo and National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the country has prepared for possible terrorist attacks and has increased security for potential targets. But, they said, the country does not face specific threats.

Car bombs exploded almost simultaneously outside two Istanbul synagogues filled with worshippers on Saturday. The government said the attack had international links, raising suspicions the al-Qaida terror network of Osama bin Laden was involved.

The DFA said it has not received any reports that Filipinos were victims of the bombings.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople said Philippine Ambassador to Turkey Ofelia Castano was "in close touch with Turkish authorities, our honorary consul in Istanbul and the Filipino community and she reported that no Filipinos were hurt in the blasts."

Ople said Castano also assured him of the safety and security of the Philippine Embassy staff in Ankara, the Turkish capital.

Ople condemned the terror attacks, pointing out that they took place a day before the global observance of International Day of Tolerance, "when we are to remind ourselves of the importance of tolerance and the need to be able to live side-by-side and in peace with peoples of different faiths.

"The Philippines strongly condemns this cowardly attack on innocent civilians. We share the profound sorrow of the people of Turkey and offer them our deepest sympathies and pray for the swift and safe recovery of those injured," the secretary said. *Jerome Aning, AP, AFP*

Tax-evading lawyers warned

By Clarissa S. Batino

CONSIDER yourself warned.

Law firms cheating the government of taxes will be subjected to a government audit starting this week, no matter how big or influential they are, according to the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The BIR suspects that businesses engaged in legal services and consulting are among the biggest tax evaders.

At least 31 prominent law firms are believed to be understating their value-added taxes, as their VAT payments fell significantly below the industry average of six percent.

"We will not favor anybody. There will be no sacred cows," Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said when asked if such firms as Carpio and Villaraza; Angara, Abello, Concepcion, Regala & Cruz; or Romulo, Mabanta, Buenaventura, Sayoc & De Los Angeles would be spared.

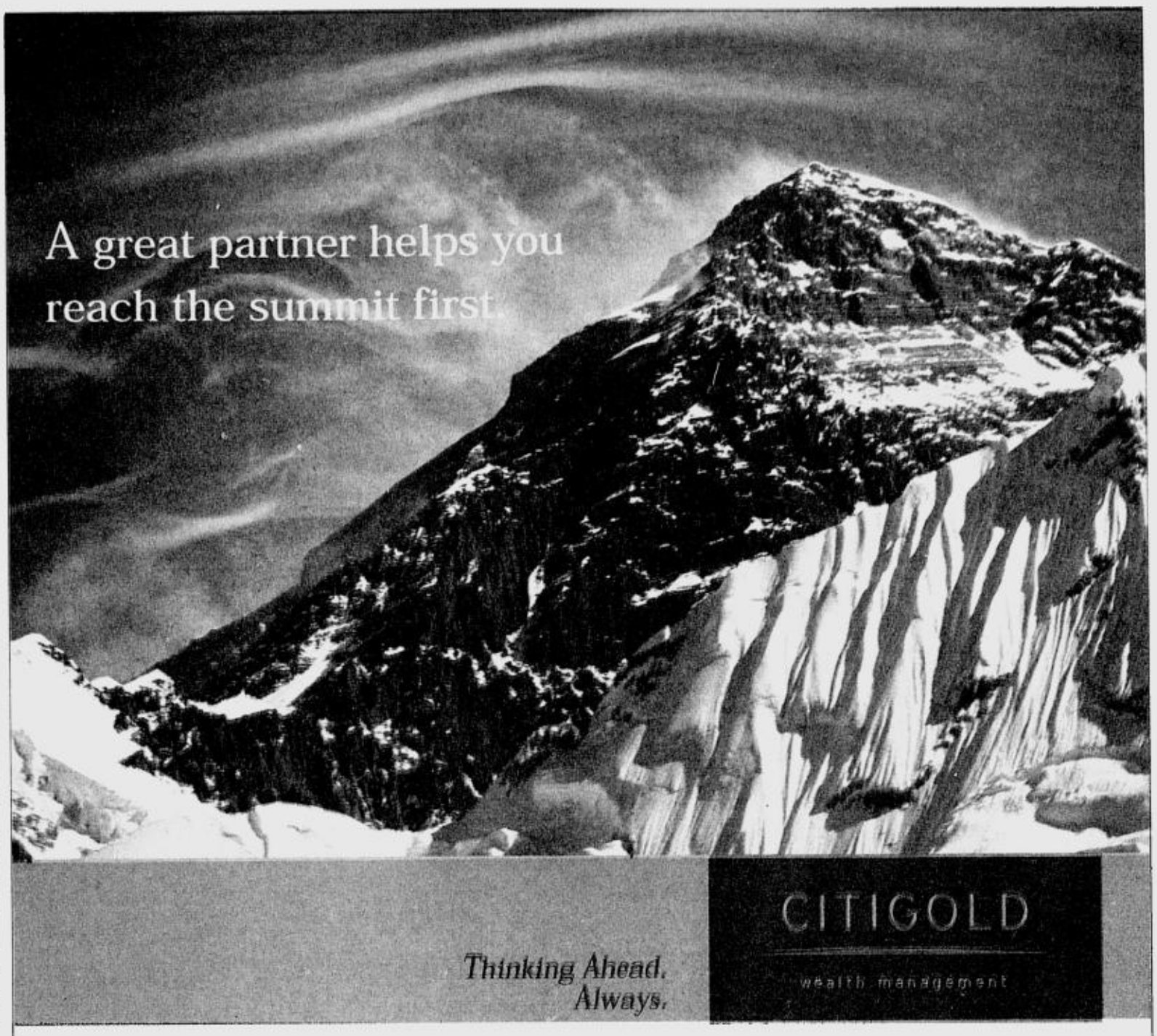
But Parayno refused to identify the targets, saying the bureau would rather not alert the firms, as they could tamper with their books.

Law firms were not being singled out, he stressed, as other sectors found having low value-added tax returns—including the sugar, soft drinks, cement and pharmaceutical industries—would be subjected to the same probe.

"For services, the average effective VAT rate should be at least six percent, so we are zeroing in on firms paying (less than that). Some even have negative VAT payments," said the BIR chief.

The 10 percent VAT is an indirect impost applied on a company's gross income, minus expenses incurred in doing business. Government records show that VAT collection leakage is about 30 percent annually, or around P42 billion a year.

Lawyers, like other income groups considered as professionals, started paying the VAT only this year after having been exempted by law since 1996.



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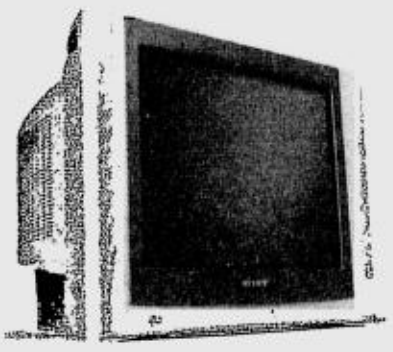

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Kuratong Baleleng cop-suspects to remain in 'freezer' longer

EVEN IF the criminal charges against them have been virtually dismissed, most of the 32 police officers accused with Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the Kuratong Baleleng rubout case cannot return to regular service just yet.

The officers, led by Chief Supt. Francisco Zubia, will remain on floating status until the dismissal of the case has been decided with finality, said Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, Philippine National Police spokesperson.

"There is still a case so they cannot just be given regular assignments," Bataoil told the INQUIRER.

With the filing of multiple murder charges against them, most of the police officers had been reassigned to Headquarters Support Service or the base police, widely considered to be the "freezer" at the PNP.

Meanwhile, groups opposed to the dismissal of the case against the police officers will form a Kuratong Baleleng Watch to be launched with a Mass on Tuesday at 9 a.m. at the Quezon City Hall of Justice. Father Robert Reyes will officiate the Mass. *Christian V. Esguerra*

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Impeach ruling ...

From page A1

Constitution, as we shall see) to determine, the "proper allocation of powers" (in the words of Justice Jose P. Laurel) in cases of conflict between constitutional co-equal organs of state.

These two interventions bracketed a series of decisions on several issues that fueled tumultuous events, among which were: (1) the 13-0 unanimous ruling of March 3, 2001 that upheld the legitimacy of Ms Macapagal's accession to the presidency; and (2) the 10-4-1 April 2001 decision that declared the plunder law constitutional, rejecting Estrada's claim to immunity from criminal prosecution. These decisions held the fragile fabric of political stability.

A batch of decisions that has little to do with political stability cast the court in the role of protector of public interests against the predatory private interests. They include: (1) the Dec. 15, 2001 ruling declaring that the coconut levy funds were "prima facie" public funds, upholding the right of the government to exercise its right to vote the sequestered shares of the United Coconut Planters Bank (this ruling was a blow to the economic power base of the Eduardo Cojuangco oligarchy); (2) the Nov. 16, 2002 ruling ordering Meralco to refund its customers about P28 billion in "excess charges;" (3) the May 6, 2003 decision declaring null and void the contracts with Piatco for the operation of Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, which were found to be corruption-ridden; and (4) the July 16, 2003 decision declaring ill-gotten the Marcos family's $682 million in Swiss deposits now in an escrow account of the Philippine National Bank.

Retaliation

These set the stage for the ganging up on the Court by interests hurt by the decisions. The retaliation was highlighted by the recent assault on the heart of the court mounted by the minions of Cojuangco through the Nationalist People's Coalition, which spearheaded the second impeachment complaint against Davide.

The first impeachment complaint against Davide and seven other justices represented a prong of attack by Estrada cohorts in Congress in revenge for the Court's decisions that legitimized the Macapagal presidency.

Before the ink of the dismissal of the first complaint dried, Cojuangco's cohorts mounted another retaliatory attack, provoking the first clash in the post-Edsa I era between the court and the House of Representatives over constitutional issues involving separation of powers and the related concept of checks and balances.

In all the decisions, a defining element stands out: The court has voted decisively. The decisions were reached with overwhelming majority, giving them conviction of judicial authority. Not a single decision reflected a faint sign of a split court.

Decisive

The court, in its Nov. 10 decision, did not waver in the assertion of its constitutional role as the final arbiter of constitutional conflict. The vote on the issues put to it was as decisive as those that resolved the several cases cited above.

The court did not lose nerve. If it showed even a little sign that it was not confident of its interpretation of the law, it could not have broken the country's free fall into anarchy as the three co-equal departments, on which Philippine constitutional democracy is anchored, were being sucked into an escalating confrontation over a reckless impeachment complaint attacking the Chief Justice.

The vote on the three issues clarified by the Nov. 10 decision speaks volumes of the court's solidarity and its unwavering consistency in pursuing its interventionist direction.

Thirteen justices, with Davide not participating, voted to declare the second impeachment complaint unconstitutional. Fourteen voted that the court has jurisdiction to review the impeachment complaint. Eleven against three voted to take action on the 18 petitions asking the court to intervene rather than exercise judicial restraint.

The 111-page decision, written by Justice Conchita Carpio Morales, made a tightly argued case for judicial intervention. Nothing can be more empathic in stating the case than the statement that "this Court did not heed the call to adopt a hands-off stance as far as the question of the constitutionality of initiating the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Davide is concerned."

It codified the activist design launched in the court's Edsa II intervention. Its key word is "duty."

In rejecting the argument that the complaint involves a political question beyond judicial intervention, the court held that in the Philippine setting, "there is a more compelling reason for courts to categorically reject the political question defense when its interposition will cover up abuse of power."

The decision said that Section 1, Article VII of the 1987 Constitution empowered the courts "to determine whether or not there has been a grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack of jurisdiction on the part of any branch ... of government." It said this power "is new and was not granted to our courts" in the 1935 and 1973 Constitutions.

The Constitutional Commission granted this enormous power to our courts in view of our experience under martial law where abusive exercises of state power were shielded from judicial scrutiny by the misuse of the political question doctrine."

"The Constitution cannot be any clearer," the decision said. "What it granted to this court is not a mere power which it can decline to exercise. Precisely to deter this disinclination, the Constitution imposed it as a duty of this Court to strike down any act of a branch ... or any of its officials done with grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction."

The decision said that "in imposing on this Court the duty to annul acts of government committed with grave abuse of discretion, the

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Erap travel OK tied to GMA poll plan

From page A1

Lakas Rep. Oscar Moreno (Misamis Oriental) said it was "quite obvious" that the Palace had gone soft on Estrada to gain his support for the President's election bid.

"I hope they find a legal basis for allowing Estrada to leave," said Moreno, one of 11 House prosecutors during Estrada's impeachment trial in the Senate. "But promises of political support (for 2004) are certainly not legal basis."

But Intengan, who turned down Malacañang's offer to be a facilitator in its total reconciliation initiative, said that while the President's stance was far from apolitical, it was an attempt to stabilize the country amid perennial threats to the government.

Their statements came on a day when Ms Macapagal's support for Estrada's medical request all but became official.

Deputy presidential spokesperson Ricardo Saludo confirmed in an interview with RMN radio that Ms Macapagal would not object to Estrada's appeal to seek medical treatment in the United States because this would push forward the total reconciliation plan.

Softening stand

Saludo confirmed what Housing Secretary Michael Defensor, the President's liaison with Estrada, and presidential chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao had earlier said about her softening stand on Estrada's request.

But Saludo made sure to emphasize that the Sandiganbayan, and not the President, had the final say on Estrada's medical treatment abroad. He said the ousted President's defense attorneys should file a petition for the US trip.

He got strong support from another religious leader and several congressmen, including Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.

El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde, whose Catholic charismatic group conducted a prayer rally for national reconciliation last week, hailed Ms Macapagal's decision as a "concrete step toward national healing."

Velarde said the move was not only wise but appropriate for a national leader facing opposition and criticism from various sectors.

"It's never too late to rebuild a broken national spirit caused by too much partisan politics," Velarde said in a statement yesterday.

De Venecia said he was calling on all congressmen to "cross party lines to show support [for] President Macapagal's offer of reconciliation."

He said: "A reconciliation with former President Estrada and his political forces will scuttle poisonous and destructive politics."

The Speaker, who survived an attempt to unseat him only last week, said that sealing a reconciliation agreement with the Estrada camp would "put an end to political destabilization in the country."

Other Lakas congressmen also welcomed the President's stance.

In a press statement released by his office, Assistant Majority Leader Allan Peter Cayetano said he and Representatives Prospero Pichay Jr. (Surigao del Sur), Prospero Nograles (Davao City), Rodolfo Albano (Isabela), Monico Puentevella (Bacolod City) and Aurelio Umali (Nueva Ecija) viewed the President's openness as expressing concern for Estrada.

Ms Macapagal is reaching out for reconciliation to show that the "strong Republic" has a heart, Cayetano said.

Like Ninoy?

In a statement certain to raise the already high political temperature, Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez compared Estrada to martyred leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.

Gonzalez noted that the dictator Ferdinand Marcos allowed his political archrival to leave for the United States for a heart bypass operation.

"It should not be said that Marcos' martial law (government) had more heart than the present administration," said Gonzalez, who was a House prosecutor during the Estrada impeachment trial like Moreno.

"If Marcos allowed Ninoy, why must we not allow Erap?" Gonzalez asked.

He said Aquino was "then a convicted prisoner while Estrada has not been convicted yet."

Independent Rep. Wilfrido Villarama (Bulacan), who is close to Ms Macapagal, made the same pitch: "Remember, he (Estrada) is not a convict."

"Reconciliation means knowing how to forgive and not being harsh on somebody who has suffered a lot for his alleged crimes," Villarama said.

He said that allowing Estrada to leave to avail himself of the best medical treatment was an "act of charity."

"Erap has already suffered the deepest humiliation a president can experience by being booted out of office," Villarama said. "And he has been detained for a few years."

No deal

In his radio interview, Saludo took a swipe at Ms Macapagal's critics—who claimed that the President was hatching deals with her political rivals to boost her 2004 bid—for what he claimed was their lack of understanding of the country's legal system.

He said there could be no deal being cooked up with Estrada because it was not within Ms Macapagal's power to change the rules of detention.

He noted that even if the Sandiganbayan did agree to let Estrada fly, private citizens could block this decision by filing a case with the Supreme Court.

Intengan said Ms Macapagal's position was a clear attempt to avert any more destabilization attempts from Estrada supporters.

The Jesuit priest, who took part in the campaign to oust Estrada in 2001, said greater instability would occur if Estrada's followers felt that the government was being cruel to the deposed leader.

"If something grave happens, then the fall-off on GMA would be very great ... Imagine the level of instability if people take to the streets and emotions are high-pitched," Intengan said.

He lauded the government's respect for the decision of Estrada, who said that he would rather die in the Philippines than seek the help of doctors other than his own, who is in the United States.

Intengan, a medical doctor before he joined the Jesuits, said Estrada's spinal problem seemed to be worse than that of his knees.

"It looks like it's in bad shape. It can cause great pain and possible paralysis ... More than the knee surgery, I think it's his spinal column that needs to be looked at," he said.

'Betrayal'

The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan denounced Ms Macapagal's stance regarding medical treatment for Estrada.

"It's a betrayal. President Macapagal-Arroyo's political plans have overtaken her commitment during Edsa II to bring Mr. Estrada to justice," said Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño in a telephone interview.

"We don't believe Erap will be back before the 2004 elections. And after the elections, new negotiations would be underway with whoever is the President at that time," Casiño added.

With a report from Norman Bordadora

Pacquiao hammers Barrera in lion's den

From page A1

reer. (Barrera was paid $1 million for the fight.)

"Pacquiao has shown again that the Filipino has got what it takes to accomplish anything once he sets his mind to it," Ms Macapagal said. She said she would personally call Pacquiao to congratulate him for the win.

Rematch?

It was the fourth victory inside the distance in the last five fights for the rapid-punching Pacquiao, who stands to receive $750,000 in a mandatory rematch with Barrera.

But Barrera may not welcome another fight. His trainer, Rudy Perez, said he hoped his ward would now call it a day.

"It was a bad night for Marco," said Perez. "It's his decision, but I don't want him to fight again."

The victory boosted Pacquiao's record to 38 wins in 41 bouts, 30 of them by knockout. Barrera absorbed only his fourth loss in 61 outings.

The decisive win disproved the general notion that a fighter moving up the weight classes leaves his explosive punch behind. Pacquiao added three more pounds to his normal fighting weight of 122 lbs and yet kept the dynamite in his fists.

Angered by the knockdown ruled by referee Laurence Cole in the first round, Pacquiao used his superior hand speed to punish Barrera, who went to his corner at the end of the second round with a bloodied nose.

Pacquiao pressed the attack from there and also knocked down Barrera early in the 11th, before the Mexican corner decided their fighter had had enough.

Through 10 rounds, two of the three judges had Pacquiao ahead, 97-90, with the third scoring it 97-89.

Power punches

To underscore Pacquiao's domination, CompuBox credited the Filipino with having landed 257 power punches compared to only 101 for Barrera.

A short left to the face downed Barrera in the sixth, but the referee ruled it a slip.

By the seventh, Barrera's face was crimson and blood trickled down his cheek following a head butt from Pacquiao. The Filipino champ was deducted a point, but the look on Barrera's face indicated he was close to quitting.

After Barrera's corner stopped the fight, Pacquiao went to a corner, raised his hand in triumph, and then bowed his head, tears flowing down his cheeks.

Ms Macapagal said Pacquiao, who normally tours depressed communities after winning his bouts, "serves as an inspiration for our poor countrymen to someday also succeed."

"Manny Pacquiao has proven that we are world-class, that we also have a chance to triumph," she said.

She said she would give Pacquiao a "special gift" when she comes home.

Televised fight

Fans of Pacquiao eagerly followed the Filipino's quest for glory, with many police stations across Metro Manila turning unusually quiet as policemen were glued to their TV sets.

During commercial breaks, the lawmen talked about the match as if they were commentators. When action resumed, they cheered, clapped and stomped their feet as if they were inside the Alamodome.

In Caloocan City, TV shops along Samson Road were teeming with Pacquiao fans. Passersby stopped to watch the delayed telecast and die-hard fans who could not watch at home braved the heat and stood in front of the shops to see their idol in his biggest match ever.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, a longtime friend and supporter of Pacquiao, said the Filipino fighter badly wanted the victory as he believed that it would contribute to efforts to foster unity among Filipinos.

"He went to that fight with the conviction that he would win and bring honor and vindication to the country," Atienza said. *With a report from AP, Edson Castro Tandoc Jr.*

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

3 arrested over synagogue attacks

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ISTANBUL—Turkish police have arrested three people, including a veiled woman, in connection with twin car bomb attacks that devastated two synagogues in Istanbul, killing 20 people and wounding some 300, the Hurriyet daily's website reported Sunday.

Intelligence and anti-terrorist services brought the three in for questioning on possible links with Saturday's attacks, the report said.

Their nationalities were not released, nor was there any information on which, if any organization, they belong to.

Although an unidentified caller to the Anatolia news agency claimed the attacks were the work of a radical home-grown group called the "Islamic Front of Raiders of the Great Orient," Turkish officials believe they were carried out by "international terrorists," possibly al-Qaida.

"It is obvious that this is a terrorist incident with international connections," Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said.

World leaders condemned the bombings at the Neve Shalom (Oasis of Peace) and Beth Israel synagogues, while Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan called for the establishment of a united front against international terrorism.

TURKISH police poring through the rubble of the Neva Shalom synagogue Nov. 15 in Istanbul, Turkey. AFP PHOTO

US President George W. Bush denounced the bombings "in the strongest possible terms" and telephoned Erdogan to offer his condolences, declaring that the United States "stands resolutely with Turkey" in the face of such attacks.

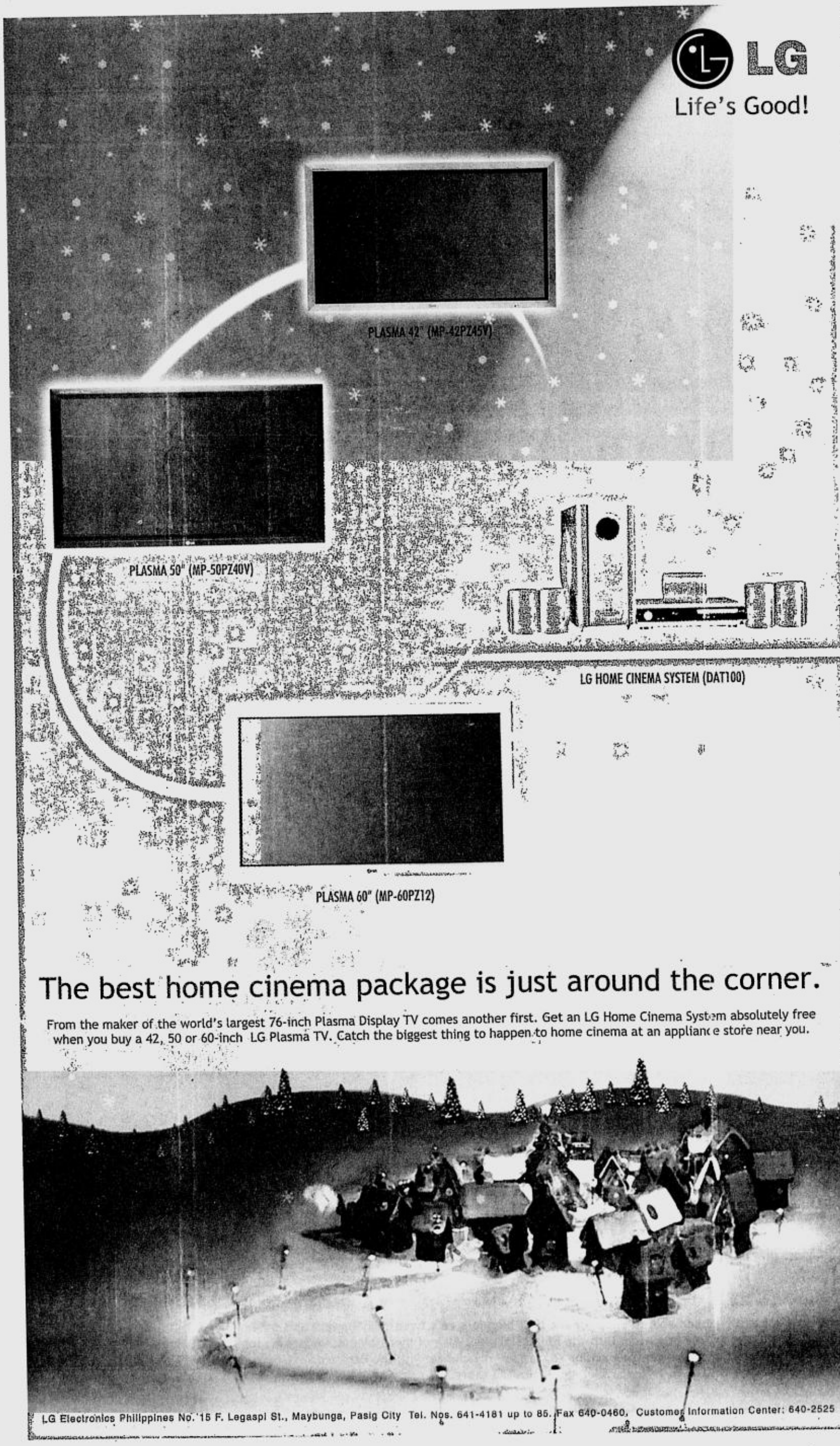
UN chief Kofi Annan said he was "appalled" by the attacks.

The almost simultaneous bombings were the latest in a series of strikes against Jewish targets in recent months, including suicide attacks in the Moroccan city of Casablanca in May that killed 45 and an attack on an Israeli-owned hotel in Kenya a year ago that left 18 dead.

Officials initially said the blasts were probably caused by explosive-laden vehicles activated by remote control or timer, but Turkish Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu said they could also have been the work of suicide bombers.

Security officials told Anatolia that a security camera at one of the synagogues showed a person parking a car outside the building and leaving and then the vehicle blowing up.

The blasts struck at the heart of a community that put down its roots in Turkey 500 years ago when Jews were expelled by the Spanish Inquisition, and shattered the tolerant cohabitation that exists between the city's estimated 27,000 Jews and Turkey's overwhelmingly Muslim population. *AFP*



Queen Mary 2 accident kills at least 13

SAINT-NAZAIRE, France—Thirteen people died and 31 were injured on Saturday when a dockside gangway to the world's biggest and most expensive cruise ship, the Queen Mary 2, collapsed at Saint-Nazaire in western France.

There for a weekend visit to the luxury liner, over 40 friends and family members of shipyard workers were crossing the gangway to the boat when it gave way, eyewitnesses said.

The group plunged some 25 meters to the ground.

Thirteen people died and nine of the injured were in serious condition, including five with grave head wounds, according to hospital officials.

Bernard Boucault, top administrator for the Loire-Atlantique region, categorically denied there were any children among the victims, as some media reports suggested.

"Never have we seen such a tragedy," Saint-Nazaire Mayor Joel Batteux told reporters, choking back tears. "How could these people die at the foot of our town's proudest symbol?"

About 50 rescue vehicles and one helicopter descended on the scene. An emergency hospital was set up at the base of the massive ship and psychologists attended to family members of the victims.

Outside the hospital in central Saint-Nazaire, a modest port town where one in 10 people work for the shipyard, dozens of anguished faces hovered waiting for news on their relatives.

"My daughter is in a state of shock," said Muriel Leduc, the wife of a shipyard worker, as she left the emergency room. "She was standing on the dock, awaiting her turn when the platform collapsed. She heard the cries of the injured."

The Queen Mary 2 is undergoing final stages of construction at the Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard, owned by French heavy engineering firm Alstom, and completed its final sea trials off the Brittany coast last week.

The ship is being built for Carnival Corp.'s Cunard Line at a cost of around $800 million. The largest passenger ship ever built, the massive boat stretches the length of four football fields and stands as high as a 23-story building. *Reuters*

Rumsfeld rules out withdrawal of US soldiers in Iraq in June

NAHA, Okinawa—American troops will not be withdrawing from Iraq starting next June under a faster timetable for self-rule in the country, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told reporters on Sunday.

"No, no," he told reporters travelling with him on a visit to Okinawa when asked if plans announced by Iraq's Governing Council for a transitional government would have any bearing on the continued presence of US forces in the troubled country.

Rumsfeld's comments came before he talked with troops on the island and met with Okinawa's governor who presented the defense secretary with a list of grievances.

Jalal Talabani, current president of the Governing Council, had earlier announced a sovereign Iraqi government would take over power from occupation authorities by the end of June 2004.

Iraq's US administrator Paul Bremer was recalled to Washington last week for hastily convened talks on Iraq. On his return to Baghdad, the US-appointed Governing Council unveiled a political timetable.

"The presence of the forces of the United States and other countries will be discussed by the transitional government," Talabani said. "If we need them to stay, we will ask them to stay. If we don't, we will respectfully ask them to leave." Rumsfeld told reporters: "This has nothing to do with US troops in Iraq.

"The timetable, or the way ahead that the Governing Council has been describing, relates to the governance aspects of the country and not to the security aspects. That's on a separate track.

"We're working to bring in additional coalition forces, we're making plans for the rotation of our forces out and new US and coalition forces in," he said.

"And the announcements with respect to Iraqi governance don't have a relationship to that. And any stories that you're seeing like that ought to have someone raise questions about the source," Rumsfeld said.

The US ambassador to Japan, accompanying Rumsfeld on the trip to Okinawa, predicted on Sunday the Japanese government would send troops to Iraq this year, despite its decision to postpone such a move.

"But I think, bottom line is that the Japanese will still dispatch a group of self-defense forces to Iraq—and probably still this year," Howard Baker said in response to questions from troops at the Camp Foster US marine base.

Tokyo had been expected to commit about 150 non-combat troops to Iraq before the end of the year. But after Wednesday's attack in the southern town of Nassiriya that killed 18 Italians, Japanese officials said that dispatching the troops was impossible under present conditions.

Japanese Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba told Rumsfeld in Tokyo on Saturday his government still intended to send troops to Iraq "at an early date" and was closely watching the situation on the ground. *Reuters*

No proof Saddam took out arms, says report

WASHINGTON—The CIA has found no evidence that toppled Iraqi President Saddam Hussein tried to transfer chemical or biological weapons of mass destruction to al-Qaida or other groups, the Washington Post reported on Sunday, citing a military and intelligence expert.

Details about the results of the weapons investigation were released in a report by Anthony Cordesman, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, based on briefings over the past two weeks in Iraq from David Kay, the CIA adviser who is directing the search for unconventional weapons in Iraq, the Post said.

The paper reported that after Kay's briefing Cordesman wrote: "No evidence of any Iraqi effort to transfer weapons of mass destruction or weapons to terrorists. Only possibility was Saddam's Fedayeen (his son's irregular force) and talk only."

In an interim report in October, Kay said that no such weapons had been found in Iraq. Critics have said the White House may have exaggerated the threat Iraq posed in order to justify the war. *Reuters*

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Rebel linked to Rwanda genocide surrenders

KIGALI—The leader of a Rwandan rebel group operating in the Democratic Republic of Congo and blamed for Rwanda's 1994 genocide of up to one million people has given himself up, officials said here Saturday.

It is hoped that Paul Rwarakabije's surrender could help restore stability in central Africa's war-torn Great Lakes region.

"He (Rwarakabije) surrendered on Friday at the head of a large team of officers," said government spokesperson Joseph Bideri.

RWARAKABIJE AFP

A smiling Rwarakabije arrived Saturday afternoon on board a Rwandan army helicopter at Kigali airport, where he was greeted and embraced by the head of the Rwandan armed forces, Maj. Gen. James Kabarebe.

"It is an important day for the Rwandan army because people who we have been fighting against have made the decision to come home," said Kabarebe.

Rwarakabije is the leader of the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR), a force of 15-20,000 fighters made up of former members of the Rwandan army and of the Interahamwe extremist Hutu militia.

These fighters, accused of playing a key role in the 1994 genocide of up to a million minority Tutsis and politically moderate Hutus, fled across the border when mainly Tutsi rebels seized power in Rwanda.

The alleged ringleaders of the genocide are currently being tried at a UN court in Tanzania.

The helicopter that took Rwarakabije on Saturday to Kigali came from Cyangugu, a town in southwestern Rwanda where he had crossed the border from the DRC and gave himself in on Friday, said government spokesperson Joseph Bideri.

Hutu militias have been operating for a decade in the border regions in the east of the DRC.

Rwarakabije said on his arrival that he had made the decision "taking into account the economic situation in Rwanda, the good policy of the Rwandan government and in the interest of the country and its population."

Rwandan people must "know that what we want is peace," he added.

One of Rwanda's prime justifications for maintaining troops in eastern DRC for several years was that it needed to protect itself from the FDLR rebels there.

Under a peace deal aimed at ending the DRC war, Rwanda agreed to withdraw its troops if the Kinshasa government disarmed and detained Rwandan Hutus operating on its territory.

Rwanda pulled its troops out last year, but has since complained that Kinshasa has not kept its side of the bargain.

The peace deal that officially ended the DRC war was signed last year by Kinshasa and its allies, Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia, and by rebel groups along with their military supporters, Rwanda and Uganda. *AFP*

Female condom a hit in Cambodia

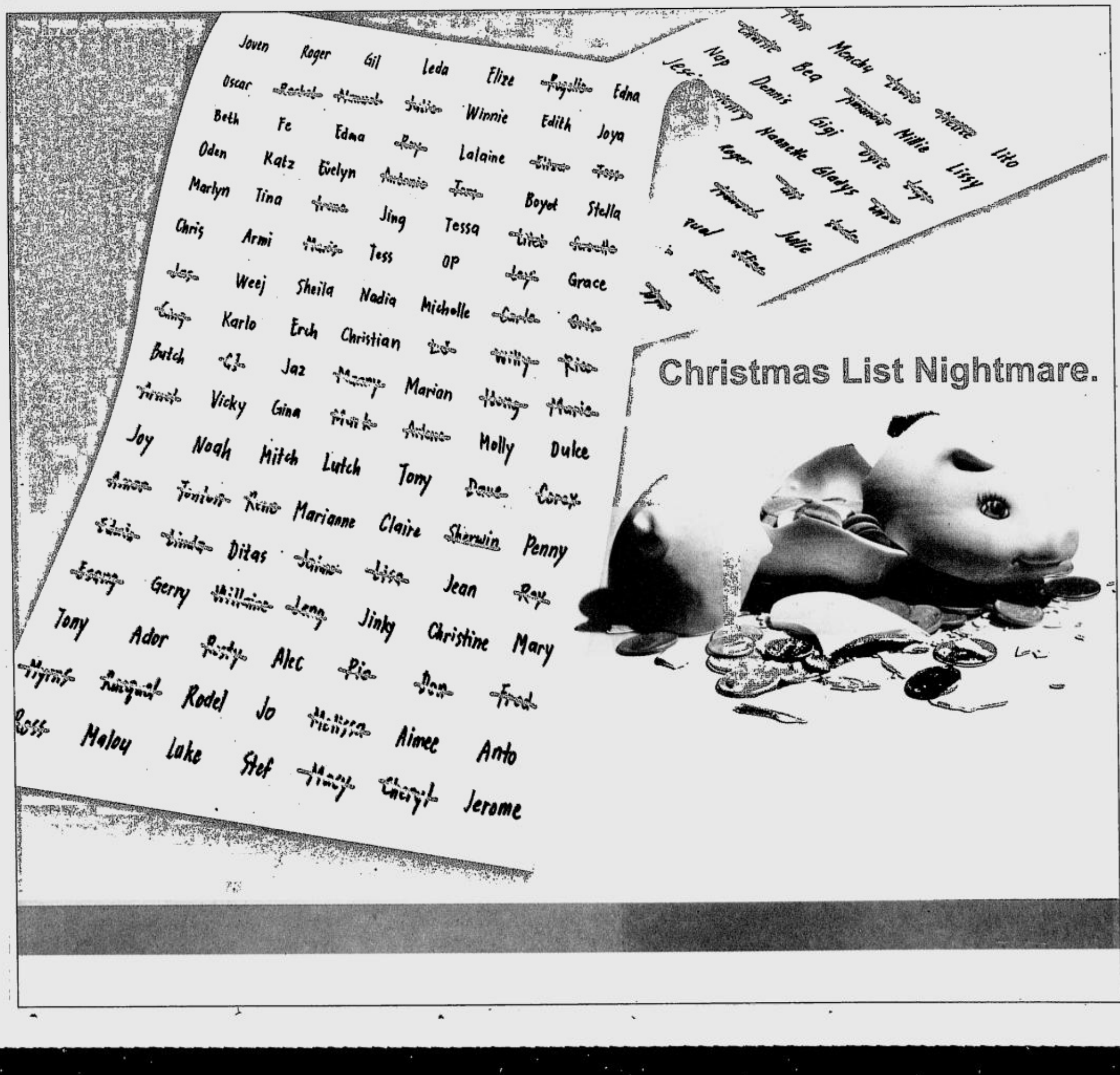
PHNOM PENH—The female condom has proved a hit with sex workers in Cambodia since its introduction by a nongovernment organization as part of its battle against HIV/AIDS last year, according to a Sunday report.

Hin Sophon, manager of Population Services International's HIV/AIDS program, told the Kampuchea Thmey newspaper that workers in western Koh Kong province and the beachside town of Sihanoukville had snapped up the new-style condoms since they began distributing them last October.

"After we trained them, we've seen that they are interested in them and have used them a lot. Within just one month we've delivered around 5,000 of the condoms to the two provinces," Hin Sophon told the Khmer-language daily.

PSI reportedly began distributing the condoms—the only female-initiated barrier method to prevent sexually transmitted diseases—after it found drunk male clients were refusing to wear condoms despite request from sex workers.

"So in order to avoid trouble with their clients, they can now use these condoms and the man has no need to wear his condom," Hin Sophon was quoted as saying. *AFP*



Suspect in murders of 25 Chinese students nabbed

BEIJING—Police have arrested a man suspected of killing at least 25 high school students in central China over a two-year period, after luring them from Internet cafés and electronic gaming halls to his home in central Henan province, officials and Internet websites said Sunday.

Police in Pingyu county arrested the suspected killer Huang Yong, 29, on Nov. 12 after a 16-year-old boy who he had kidnapped escaped his home in Dahuangzhuang village, the official Henan News Net said on its website.

The boy reported his Nov. 7 kidnapping to police who arrested Huang, the report said.

After police found 18 bodies buried behind Huang's house, the suspected killer confessed to strangling 25 victims, it said.

Police in Pingyu county and in Dahuangzhuang village refused to confirm Huang's arrest or comment on the case, but a local official in Yuhuangmiao township confirmed that Huang had been arrested and was being charged with murder.

Huang's arrest comes after police in neighboring Hebei province arrested Wang Ganggang on Nov. 2, as the leading suspect in what could be China's largest-ever serial murder case.

Wang, also a native of Henan province, is suspected to have killed at least 65 people in Henan and neighboring, Hebei, Shandong and Anhui provinces, Xinhua news agency reported Friday on its website.

Central authorities appear to have placed a gag order on both murder cases, as information has only appeared on websites and not in Chinese dailies.

Refusals by officials and police to discuss the cases also appear to reflect official reluctance to comment on such extreme crimes until after they have solved them.

The parents of 13 missing boys had already set up a self-help group seeking the whereabouts of their missing children and had urged police to better patrol Internet cafés and gaming halls in the region.

Huang allegedly lured the boys to his home with offers of employment, then tied them up and strangled them with a rope, the report said.

The 16-year-old boy, identified as Zhang Liang, was allegedly tortured by Huang, who choked the boy three times until he passed out, but did not kill him.

Following Huang's arrest, police in Pingyu county shut down all Internet cafés and gaming parlors, it said. *AFP*

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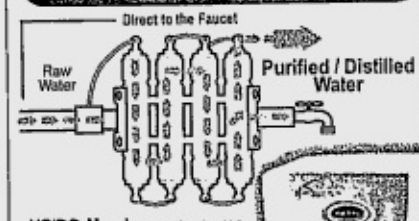

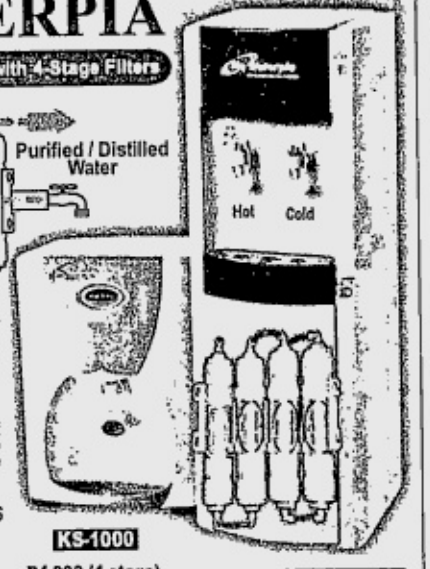

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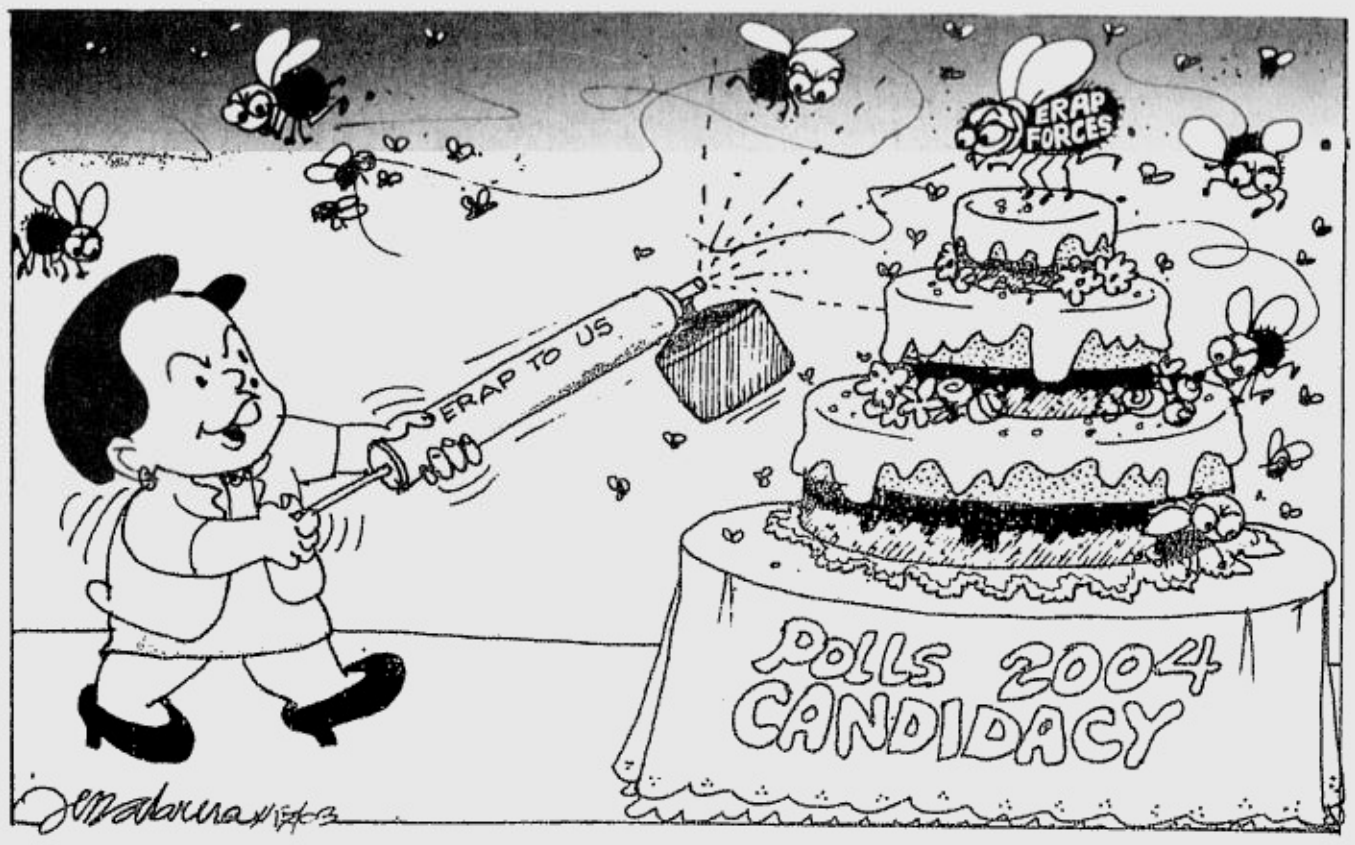

Cannon fodder

WHEN President Macapagal-Arroyo described the anti-administration protesters dispersed by the Makati City police last Wednesday as "*pagkain ng kanyon,*" some people wondered whether the Chief Executive had gotten the translation right.

She did. Fodder is generally coarse food, the kind fed to domestic or farm animals. Cannon fodder, in one dictionary definition, means "soldiers, sailors, or other military personnel regarded as likely to be killed or wounded in combat." The mixing of the two ideas probably occurred when industrialization had made mass warfare possible. To an observer watching the carnage in a battlefield, cannons could very well have seemed like a hungry beast that needed to be fed with a constant supply of fodder—what another dictionary defines as "an undifferentiated mass" of people.

EDITORIALS

The 10,000 or so protesters who filled parts of Ayala Avenue, right in the center of the country's financial district, included many women and children, some of them carrying cooking implements for an all-night vigil. Their organizers knew that their rally permit gave them only until 5 p.m. to march in the streets; that some came prepared for a longer stay is clear proof they were told otherwise, or they were not told of the deadline at all.

The order to break their ranks was issued at about 5:40 p.m., and the dispersal was over in a few minutes. A Makati policeman told reporters there was no difficulty in dispersing the crowd, because most of the protesters were "paid and bussed in."

"We learned that most of them were paid P150 in advance and promised P150 more after the rally, excluding meals," the policeman said. "They were just there for the money and not for their beliefs and convictions about the present administration."

The chief of the Philippine National Police, Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., said protesters after the dispersal admitted they had been paid at those rates to join the rally.

The Constitution, of course, guarantees freedom of assembly even to those who have been paid to assemble. And a protester's freedom of speech is not compromised simply because he has been paid to air his protest.

Rent-a-crowd

IT is important to understand that the 10,000 or so who marched through the center of Makati City on Wednesday had reason to take to the streets. They may have demanded the resignation of the President, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and (a post-impeachment addendum) Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., but their real grievance lay in a driving sense of despair. In a country where even the administration of impartial justice is embroiled in the elitist exercise of politics, those who feel their lives have worsened in the last three years will not hesitate to raise a howl—and get paid in the process.

Their vulnerability to rally organizers offering P300 and a free meal is proof of despair.

But we do not mean to romanticize those who took to the streets last week. Their victimhood does not allow them to override the terms of their rally permit, or excuse their organizers.

The President blamed "unscrupulous political leaders" for the Makati rally, saying they had fed the poor with false promises. One police official and one military source monitoring the activities of anti-administration groups went even further; they said the protest was an attempt by coup plotters to "test the waters."

"Military and police adventurists are just waiting for the right time to give their support," the military source, a counter-intelligence officer, told the INQUIRER.

What does this mean? It means that the organizers—among them the October 28 Movement and the People's Movement Against Poverty—cynically took advantage of the very people they said they represented, to engineer a situation that could lead to a coup.

For them, the rent-a-crowd is fodder, even if only for tear gas and water cannons.

Three Terrors, Spice Boys should go to show biz

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IF the Three Terrors, the Spice Boys and the President think they are so good at singing and dancing, why don't they change careers and go into show biz? After all, that is the only thing they're good at. In return, Fernando Poe Jr. and his show-biz pals can take over the job of running the government. Considering the depths to which governance has sunk, the show-biz folk can't possibly do any worse.

It's only fair, *'di ba*? The politicians want to horn in on the territory of show-biz folk, the latter should be allowed to horn in on the politicians' turf.

The sight of the President, Cabinet members and congressmen singing the night away while the country is falling apart, reminds me of Nero fiddling away while Rome burned. It also reminds me of the Romans staging gladiator combats and feeding Christians to the lions at the Colosseum to make the rabble forget their suffering. Except that in the Philippine version, it is the elite whom they fed with food that cost as much as P30,000 per plate, paid for of course with the taxes of people, many of whom have barely enough to eat. How many months of food for a family of five will P30,000 buy? Probably four months, but each government official wolfed that down in just one meal.

Which was probably why some of the businessmen and officials who were in the captive audience of the show grumbled: *"Pinagbayad na kami ng pagka-lakilaki, pinilit pa kaming makinig sa kanila."*

The singing may have been torture to the ears of the audience, but at least their eyes were dazzled with the costumes. The Three Terrors had three or four costume changes. In one, they came in colorful vests and pants with sequins—*talagang pang* show biz *talaga*. That of MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando was in the shocking pink of the urinals he constructed all over Metro Manila, perhaps to remind the people that he is the only official who cares for their bladders. Just in case they didn't get the connection, he reminded them by calling himself "the walking urinal." A few of the guests remarked that they would have liked to pee in that urinal except that it is not polite to do that in public.

That "Concert, Part 2" also reminds me of the Hitler regime on the eve of the collapse of Nazi Germany during World War II. While the Russians and Americans were hammering at the gates of Berlin, the Berliners gathered to listen to the symphony orchestra play "Gotterdammerung" one last time, after which the orchestra was disbanded and everybody scampered to escape the approaching enemy. Was the Three Terrors' second concert the "Gotterdammerung" of the Macapagal administration? "Gotterdammerung" is German for "twilight of the gods," but the dictionary defines its noun equivalent as "the total, usually violent, collapse of a society, regime, institution, etc."

* * *

Another political character who should change careers and go into show biz is Imelda Marcos. She showed once more her dramatic talent a few days ago when she showed up at the Sandiganbayan to tearfully beg why her bail shouldn't be cancelled and she not be arrested for violating the terms of her travel permit. Why is she being persecuted by this government, she wailed for the benefit of the television cameras, copious tears flowing from her eyes and lifting her skirt to show a bandaged knee.

It was a performance worthy of any tear-jerking soap opera. "*Ang galling umarte ni* Imelda," said a househelp watching television. The comment, however, was not a paean to her dramatic talent but a smirk to the obvious fact that she was only acting.

Imelda is the only person in the world out on bail for a string of criminal and civil cases who regularly travels around the world for "medical and religious reasons." At the same time, the same Sandiganbayan refuses to allow former President Estrada to have his knees operated on in America. Why are the courts so strict with Erap and so lenient with Imelda? Hasn't it become obvious that she is making fools of all of us?

Another poser: Why did the Macapagal administration and civil society applaud when the Supreme Court thumbed down the impeachment case against the Chief Justice but are now crying "murder" when Judge Teresita Yadao dismissed the Kuratong Baleleng murder case against Sen. Panfilo Lacson and his co-accused? Two accused both let off easy because of doubt, but the reaction to them are opposite. The first was hailed, the second is being condemned. Why?

I think both decisions are correct. To paraphrase a justice of the American Supreme Court, it is better to let 10 guilty men free than to imprison one innocent man.

Which is also the reason an American judge ruled against the extradition to the Philippines of Rod Strunk: there is doubt about his guilt. The evidence of the prosecution was "patchwork" and contradictory, the judge said, so he ruled in favor of Strunk.

Which was just as well. Considering the Filipino hatred of Nida Blanca's husband, do you think he would get a fair trial here? Which brings me back to the Kuratong Baleleng case. It has already been dismissed by the courts five times, but the government still insists on prosecuting it.

Doesn't it smack of persecution?

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: Hearing a noise downstairs, the wife of a congressman woke him up.

"Get up," she said, "I think there's a thief in the house."

Only half awake, the congressman replied, "I know. But there are also some in the Senate."

Reconciliation

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo has a plan to unite the nation. That is by calling on Erap, Danding Cojuangco, the Marcoses, the CPP-NPA and the MILF to reconcile with her. Her plan calls, among others, for the creation of a Truth Commission to put an end to the issue of torture and plunder under the Marcos regime.

Mike Defensor, the fellow who abducted the key witness in the Jose Pidal case and reconciled him with his impotence, the natural lot of the weak and oppressed, lauds the move. "I think the President's vision is for total reconciliation and the unqualified healing of the nation. This will be her greatest legacy."

In fact, it is the easiest thing in the world to unite the nation today. GMA need not look very far to see how it may be done—completely, profoundly, immediately. She will find the answer in the speech she gave last Dec. 30, particularly the part that said:

"The 2004 election may well go down in history as among our most bitterly contested elections ever. This is because of the deep social and political division that we now have. If this is true, then sincere efforts to launch programs will run the risk of being derailed by political fighting leading up to the elections. The government in place after 2004 may merely end up inheriting a country as deeply divided as ever.... If I were to run, it will require a major political effort. But since I am among the principal figures in the divisive national events for the last two or three years, my political efforts can only result in never-ending divisiveness."

She was right. Her decision to run has only resulted in never-ending divisiveness. Indeed a spiraling one: When GMA said the things above last year, we had not yet had the Oakwood mutiny, the Pidal exposé, the move to oust Hilario Davide Jr., the airport tower takeover, the increasingly strident rallies by the Erap hordes, the loud rumblings of a coup. In fact, GMA has no reason to lament the disunity among the various groups in the country. She has united them—against her.

The common ground in the placards of those who were rallying for and against Davide at the Batasan was her. The PMAP was accusing her of siding with Davide, the Edsa II groups were accusing her of siding with Danding. And everybody else who wasn't carrying a placard was accusing her of waiting to see which side won before siding with it. In fact, GMA has done the impossible, which has been to reconcile the disparate elements in the country, elements that would normally make for a combustible mix. She has brought together the Erap hordes, the various strands of the opposition, Copa, the Edsa II forces, the military, the militant groups, the CPP-NPA, the MILF, the businessmen—the entire political spectrum from Left to Right—against her. She is the common enemy of Kit Tatad and Satur Ocampo, Capt. Panfilo Villaruel and Ka Roger Rosales, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the MILF. No one since Marcos has managed to piss off that many people. At least the lumpen proletariat remained loyal to Erap.

GMA wants to unite this country, right here, right now, she can do that easily by withdrawing from the 2004 elections. That's what she did early this year. Her announcement that she would not run completely, profoundly and immediately united the nation. It stopped the protests, it stopped the politicking, it even stopped, completely unfortunately, the investigation of the Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard. It was short-lived of course, GMA herself showing soon enough, not least by campaigning in deepest Lent, she had merely lied.

GMA does not abandon her hunger for power, which is doomed anyway, we may not see May 2004 at all.

But more than that, she misses the whole point of reconciliation. That should be obvious in her concept of a "Truth Commission." A "Truth Commission" that means to lay to rest the Marcos murder and pillage is not a Truth Commission, it is a Lie Commission. The point of a Truth Commission—which Raul Alfonsin among others created in Argentina in December 1983 after the fall of military rule was to punish those responsible for the disappearance of 15,000 citizens, whose memory was kept alive by those who "dance alone," as Sting sings, in the Plaza de Mayo. A Truth Commission unearths, not buries. It remembers, not forgets. It punishes iniquity, not rewards it.

That is the point of reconciliation, to reconcile the past with the present, to reconcile the living with the dead, to reconcile the victims of crime or the kin they leave behind with its aftermath, to reconcile one with the other through justice. Justice is the amalgamating factor, the thing that welds the elements. In our case, that is not achieved by rewarding the Marcoses with forgetfulness, that is not achieved by rewarding Danding Cojuangco with forgiveness, that is not achieved by rewarding Erap with a knee surgery and a pretty nurse in America. That is not living in harmony, that is sleeping with the enemy.

In the end, the point of reconciliation is to reconcile with the people, not with those who have oppressed them. That is the mandate of government, to serve the people. You do not reconcile with the people by bringing their oppressors to oppress them once again, you reconcile with them by bringing their oppressors to the scaffold. In fact, all GMA has to do to reconcile with the people is to reconcile with Edsa II, the force that brought her to power, the will that gave her her mandate, the dream that demanded to be fulfilled. That is the people speaking with one voice. That is what she has betrayed completely, profoundly, immediately. That is what she needs to reconcile with.

You wonder though how she can possibly do that. She can't even reconcile herself with reality.

RP bags first prize in energy competition

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

VIENNA, Austria—As I arrived in Europe a few days ago to attend the awards night of the Energy Globe Award 2003 for Sustainability with my husband, news came over the Internet about the big anti-administration demonstration organized by Estrada supporters in Makati last Wednesday. It was the first time in recent memory that the riot police had to disperse the protesters with water cannons and tear gas right in the heart of the business district, after the demonstrators' permit had lapsed. The police dispersal action landed in the international media, projecting the country wrongly again, even as it disrupted business in the financial district.

Pro-Estrada leaders were quoted as saying they'll carry on the mass action "until GMA leaves" and the media speculation is that the Estrada group and their cohorts in the military are testing the waters for a possible coup.

The question rational citizens are asking at this point, however, is that with the presidential elections just around the corner, why doesn't the opposition just work hard and unite so that they could remove the President through the elections, instead of mounting huge demonstrations and coup attempts that hurt the entire country and the economy? Or is it their belief that despite all their political efforts they cannot defeat her at the polls—which is why they have to try to oust her the extra-constitutional way?

* * *

Despite the bad news, on other international fronts the Philippines won plaudits. The victory of Manny Pacquiao in Texas thrilled us all. Then too, last Nov. 12, the Philippine National Oil Corp. (PNOC) won first prize in one of five categories in the 2003 competition for the Energy Globe Awards for Sustainability. The gala awards night was held in Linz, Austria's industrial city attended by over 2,000 guests, including Austria's leading cabinet ministers, international political, educational and show business personalities. The award ceremonies will be beamed to some 150 countries around the globe. Representing the PNOC were its president and CEO, Lt. Gen. Thelmo Cunanan (ret.), and Rene Bala, head of the PNOC's energy research department and manager of its Solar Homes Systems project (both men braved the winter weather in their barongs). Also on hand to cheer for the Philippines was our ambassador to Vienna, Victor Garcia, and his beauteous lady, the former Connie Guanzon.

* * *

The Energy Globe Awards, nicknamed the "Oscar Awards" of the international energy sector, was organized by an Austrian industrialist named Wolfgang Neumann in 2000 and given annually to projects and initiatives from the private and government sectors around the world, including research and educational institutions. Competitors are considered for their contributions to protecting the four basic elements of life on our planet: earth, fire, water and air, which are deemed inseparably linked with the cycle of life. In the belief that sun, water, wind and biomass will be the energy suppliers of the future, the organizers created the four award categories of Earth, Fire, Water and Air, which contain a common challenge: that the energy they generate is clean, renewable and sustainable. A special fifth category added was Youth, and recognized are all programs, projects, activities and initiatives in the field of environmental education, which contribute to increasing environmental awareness especially among the young.

* * *

Starting with 1,000 projects from 72 countries in 2000, the awards saw 1,230 projects from 98 countries competing a year later, then a total of 1,300 projects from 98 countries in 2002. This year brought over a thousand entries from 72 countries. A high-ranking jury from five continents, chaired by Prince El Hassan Bin Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the president of the Club of Rome, participated in the project evaluation process that was based on four criteria: sustainability and efficiency, innovative approach, cost/benefit and replication potential. The Philippines was the only Asian/Asean winner of this prestigious award which came with a handsome 14-kg bronze statue and prize money of 10,000 euros.

* * *

The PNOC won first place in the category "Fire," for its Solar Homes Systems Project, which is in support of President Macapagal-Arroyo's rural electrification program for the poorest families in far-flung barangays found in off-grid communities. GMA's development program calls for the electrification of all barangays by the end of 2006, and solar energy will doubtless be crucial. The PNOC's sustainable solar project is being implemented in cooperation with Shell Solars Netherlands and the Royal Dutch Government currently in Regions I, II, III, IV, V and VI, and the Cordillera Autonomous Region. At present a total of 1,600 solar homes systems have been installed in areas otherwise inaccessible to the regular electric grid, due to their mountainous or island locations. At the awards ceremony, the organizers made a taped presentation of the PNOC solar project, featuring a Palawan family enjoying the benefits of electricity for the first time from installed solar panels. What won the award for us over other competitors was the PNOC's message about the direct link of its project to poverty alleviation.

Months ago, energy officials led by Secretary Vincent Perez trooped to Banaue to inaugurate the solar energy projects in CAR. Personally this columnist was witness to a system installed in Roxas, Palawan, where for a total of P19,000, payable on installment, a family could enjoy light that enables the children to study their lessons at night. With this Energy Globe Award, hopefully, solar energy, the most sensible type of energy for sun-drenched Philippines, has arrived in a grand way.

Low regard for media

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

IF the statistics are to be believed, newspaper writing and broadcast journalism can be hazardous to the health of the people who actively engage in those activities. At least, as far as the Philippines is concerned.

Last week, I received a letter by slow mail from a reader who reacted to the news that appeared in the Aug. 25 issue of the INQUIRER. Quoting the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, the newspaper reported that "the average figure for the number of Philippine journalists killed in the line of duty is three. This year, we have already surpassed the 'quota.'"

The report went on to say that since 1986, 41 Filipino journalists have been killed and several others have been victims of ambush or mauling, torture and illegal detention by agents of the government or henchmen of powerful individuals. Most of the victims were newspaper journalists and radio commentators who practiced their profession in the provinces, although some came from highly urbanized cities.

This piece of grim news should elicit widespread sympathy from the public. Right? It should, but unfortunately not all readers seem to think that way. A "dissenting opinion" came from a reader who lives in a province that does not appear to be hospitable to journalists.

In clear handwriting, the reader wrote: "Media is *(sic)* a part of our troubles. It is *(sic)* in itself corrupt, licentious, abusive, etc. All because you can always have the last word!"

Judging from the penmanship and letterhead of the stationery used, I think the reader is well-educated and carefully chose his words before he wrote and sent them to me. He struck me as an angry man.

I was surprised by the comments. Although the reader didn't say it directly, reading between the lines, it was apparent he did not express grief for the sad fate that has befallen the journalists mentioned in the news. He stopped short of blaming the victims of murder, torture and harassment for the troubles they suffered.

Grievance

Several scenarios came to my mind to explain the reader's hostile attitude toward the members of the Fourth Estate. He could be a businessman who was the subject of a critical news report or commentary that adversely affected his business. He could be an aspiring politician whose ambitions were dashed to the ground by derogatory articles written at the instigation of unscrupulous political opponents.

Or he could be a private citizen whose privacy was violated or reputation ruined by inaccurate news stories and was not given the opportunity to properly defend himself. His use of the words "you can always have the last word" gave me the impression that he had a dispute with a journalist over something written about him and the exchange of views ended with the writer giving the last piece on the issue.

It looked like the reader has not gotten over what he considers his unfair treatment by media. To aggravate matters, his resentment has spread to people who had nothing to do with his problem except that they are engaged in the same profession as his "tormentor." So strong must his anger be that he indirectly blames the journalists for the violence that has been visited on them in the performance of their work.

No doubt, past hurts do not justify wishing harm to journalists or making light of the travails they undergo in the pursuit of their profession. But there's more than meets the eye in those comments. The media can ignore the hidden message only at their own peril.

I wonder how many readers share a similar attitude toward the media.

Smiling photo

Going to another subject matter, reader Nila Layug took offense at the photo of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. that came out on Nov. 11, the day after the Supreme Court declared the second impeachment complaint against him as unconstitutional.

The front-page picture showed Davide all smiles, beaming with happiness about the said decision. The caption read: "The unforgettable fight of his life is just over, and there it is for all to see on the face of Chief Justice Davide Jr., who in the day of triumph for the rule of law, attends Mass for his retiring colleague Associate Justice Josue Bellosillo at the Supreme Court compound."

The reader thinks the choice of the photo was malicious. She said, "The country and the people are grossly divided at the moment, so you should not have added insult to injury. You have been in this business for so long so you should know the effect of the photo on all Erap loyalists, pro-impeachment court employees and the general public.

"When will you ever help in promoting harmony among the Filipino people? Just when the country was able to restore sanity with the Supreme Court ruling, you are at your old ways again."

The managing editor was quick to deny the reader's claim that the publication of the subject photo was malicious. He explained that the picture in question was chosen to reflect Davide's elation over the early resolution of what could have been a constitutional crisis. There was no intention at all on the newspaper's part to humiliate the Erap loyalists or the pro-impeachment congressmen.

I agree with the editor. Anybody who finds himself in Davide's place would have been elated, and shown it, by the outcome of the tribunal's ruling on the complaint. Since Davide was in the center of the storm brought about by the impeachment move, it was only logical that his reaction to the decision be shown to the readers. The news would be incomplete if a photo that captured his mood at that time did not accompany it.

Like all disputes, there are winners and losers. It is understandable for the losers to feel bad about their defeat. I think the newspaper would have done a disservice to its readers if it withheld the publication of a photo simply because it might displease a certain sector of our society. Honest newspaper reporting was not meant to be a popularity game.

Besides, I believe the "all smiles" picture is a fitting end to a controversy that arose from wrong information and a false sense of pride.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Rule of law vs 'areglo'

COMMENTARY

Joel Rocamora

IN THE END what had to happen was exactly what happened. The challenge to the integrity of the Supreme Court was stopped with firm action by the Supreme Court itself. The political meaning of the long, legally elaborate Supreme Court decision was simple: the Constitution, more broadly, "rule of law" takes precedence over the machinations of politicians. While the intent of the "covenant" crafted by President Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia was a solution that would have had the same practical effect, the withdrawal of the House impeachment complaint, it kept the search for a political solution within the circuits of *areglo* by politicians.

Reports indicate that Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. chose not to sign the covenant because later drafts compromise the Supreme Court's fiscal independence. But the "majesty of the law" was symbolized by the fact that Davide "slept like a babe" while Speaker De Venecia stayed up late Sunday night. De Venecia failed to save the "covenant." But his politically risky decision to obey the Supreme Court decision has actually strengthened his position despite the rash threats of the Brat Pack. The 115-77 vote in support of his decision is likely to be enough for him to keep his position. Worried about having to make "Save JDV" placards, civil society types heaved a sigh of relief when Rep. Didagen Dilangalen dug his way out of a hole by withdrawing his oust De Venecia motion.

The proximate losers are the signatories of the House impeachment complaint especially the young political scions of local politicians who have come off looking like rash, arrogant but inexperienced politicians. The bigger loser may be their patron who, far from succeeding in intimidating the Supreme Court, has ended up antagonizing them. Instead of weakening the Court, the Nationalist People's Coalition provided the justices an opportunity to decisively assert their strength. There has been so much publicity about the coco levy cases that it would be extremely difficult at this point for the Supreme Court to backtrack on their earlier decision that coco levy funds are public funds.

> We cannot overestimate the importance of this victory. For the first time since 1986, now 17 years ago, there is a possibility for substantive accounting on Marcos era crimes

President Macapagal came out of this relatively unscathed. After her *segurista* initial position, her symbolic and "covenanted" support for Davide puts her firmly on the "winning side." The problem now is that room for some kind of judicial compromise on the coco levy cases has considerably narrowed. The only remaining option is for yet further postponement of the cases perhaps until Davide retires in 2005; only a second or third best option for Danding Cojuangco. The possibility that Cojuangco will instead "go for broke" and support an opposition presidential candidate is greater now than before this crazy impeachment imbroglio.

We cannot overestimate the importance of this victory. For the first time since 1986, now 17 years ago, there is a possibility for substantive accounting on Marcos era crimes. It is no surprise that the whole rogues' gallery of Marcos era and pro-Erap politicians have lined up against Davide. It is the Davide court which has already taken decisions on Marcos wealth and coco levy cases. With this victory, these decisions can be "clinched" in the remaining cases already pending in the Supreme Court and still to come. This is not just a matter of political symbolism. The economic stakes are massive: San Miguel stocks bought with coco levy funds totals 51 percent and at current prices amount to some P200 billion. Control of these stocks equals control of San Miguel whose sales account for 5 percent of Philippine GDP.

For delicious icing on the cake, the Supreme Court declares independence from American jurisprudence. Countering Sen. Aquilino Pimentel and Speaker De Venecia's assertion that American impeachment precedents required not taking jurisdiction, the Supreme Court said: "Such American jurisprudence and authorities, much less the American constitution, are of dubious application for these are no longer controlling within our jurisdiction and have only limited persuasive effect insofar as the Philippine constitutional law is concerned." Ladies and Gentlemen of the Supreme Court. Your honors. *Maraming salamat.*

Joel Rocamora is the executive director of the Institute for Popular Democracy.

'Salus curia est suprema lex'

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

("WE are all the craven Eleven now.")

Imagine the mental and moral turmoil, in that weekend of burning the midnight oil, when *ponente* Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales consolidated 18 instant petitions and produced the landmark Supreme Court ruling, *Francisco Jr. vs. House of Representatives*, in less time than it took for me to read it! I am a slow reader, but I ask—could she have forgotten for even one second as she wrote it, that seven of her colleagues are co-accused with Davide in the first impeachment complaint and she herself at hazard in the second? Though crucial to *Francisco Jr.*, she very demurely tucks away in Footnote 5, this list of justices with a clear conflict of interest in deciding upon the constitutionality of the Davide impeachment: Bellosillo, Puno, Carpio, Corona, Vitug, Quisumbing and Davide. All are co-accused in the first impeachment proceedings ever initiated against Supreme Court justices this year.

But Davide recused himself because he is accused in both complaints. So how in the world did his co-accused have the lack of *delicadeza* to rule in the second complaint? Think. As they were giving birth to *Francisco Jr.*, was it neurologically possible for them to forget their status as co-accused in the still ongoing first impeachment proceeding? How can those justices avoid the perception of conflict of interest when *Francisco, Jr.* has the effect of a pre-emptive strike on any impeachment against them now? But don't take it from me.

Associate Justice Artemio V. Panganiban, in his concurring opinion, unwittingly reveals what happened on Nov. 10, 2003—just like the last time that justice hurried, was democracy buried by the Davide Court (in a 30-minute steamroller on Jan. 20, 2001). This time, Panganiban agonizes over craven conflict of interest:

"There is also the lingering thought that the judgment I may make in these consolidated cases may present a conflict of interest because of the following (1) It may personally benefit me, considering that I am one of the eight justices who were charged by former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada in the first Impeachment Complaint; thus, a ruling barring the initiation of the second Impeachment Complaint within one year from that of the first would also proscribe any future indictment against me within the same period. (2) As a member of the Court, I used some facilities purchased or constructed with the Judiciary Development Fund (JDF). (3) I voted in favor of several unanimous en banc Resolutions of the Court affirming JDF expenditures recommended by some of its committees.

So why didn't Panganiban and the rest recuse? He claims incredibly, that the Court "directed" him to do it—*"Despite my desired inhibition, however, the Court, in its Resolution dated Oct. 28, 2003, 'directed me to participate' in these cases. My colleagues believed that these Petitions presented novel and transcendental constitutional questions that necessitated the participation of all justices."*

Today we see the real reason. All eight in the first impeachment proceeding and all 15 in the second complaint, have shamelessly benefited from the devastating radioactive fallout on Congress and their accusers of their ruling. Masa radio sneered—*"Absuelto de gulat con lahat."* Plus, the House of young evil-doers is ruled guilty of "grave abuse of discretion" yet its Speaker is beatified as a "great statesman" by the court of political correctness. The Brat Pack is reeling from the blows civil society posses, among whose elites there is a growing taste for neo-fascist governance and black-shirt tactics. Verily—prolong a war and all antagonists look alike. Finally, all the justices who ruled with Davide in "several en banc resolutions of the Court affirming JDF expenditures" are now safe from the hazard of impeachment, aren't they? Thank you, Justice Panganiban. We are all the Craven Eleven now.

Theoretically, even when the justice committee turns in an adverse report on the first complaint, a vote of at least one-third of the House members can still reverse it. But practically speaking all impeachment moves are dead and buried. The ruling directly benefits all the justices. Who will deny it?

There was unseemly and indecent haste in this ruling. What "transcendental considerations" caused the Court to "relax recusation"? Why didn't petitioners make these urgent prayers when the rules were adopted two years ago? Why was their transcendental importance suddenly discovered only now? Why did the co-accused judges not recuse? *Francisco Jr.* answers with plenty of Ronald Niebuhr casuistry and what some American legal commentators condemn as "new originalism" in Third World constitutional law. But Occam's Razor simply says they ruled to save Davide and themselves. *Salus curia est suprema lex!*

So the Court rules. I acquiesce with due respect and chagrin. Only irony remains. Civil society may rue this ruling when next they need to impeach evil society and the prodigal shoe returns to father foot. Protected by civil society, Hilario Davide may rest on his laurels. Relieved that his place in history has dodged a bullet of obloquy, he must now resign his post to the new Chief Justice—"Jose Pidal"—whose Supreme Court, it now is. Something wicked this way walks—but will the virtuous Davide stop it when he finally sees it? *(Visit my website http://deanjorgebocobo.blogspot.com.)*

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Farmers' rights vs miners' rights?

WE believe that mining is the key to solving the economic problems of our country. All that is left in the Philippines are the services and the agricultural industries and there is no more manufacturing because of cheap labor from China, Vietnam, etc. However, mining is faced with a lot of problems especially in securing permits. A typical conflict is between farmers and miners. Farmers are very numerous, however, their products have lower value than the output of mining. And yet in any conflict, the farmers' rights are maintained to the exclusion of miners' rights.

A case in point is the report written by INQUIRER Northern Luzon Bureau reporters Melvin Gascon and Villamor Visaya Jr. last Oct. 28 titled, "New mining operation worries farmers."

By way of background, Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp. is the operator of the mining claims opened by Marian Mineral Exploration Corp. (Marminex) represented by its president, Dr. Jose B. Jocson. On June 2, 2003, Marminex proposed to do small-scale mining operation in the property. Vulcan interposed no objection to its proposal and consented to its request, provided that it secured all the necessary permits and licenses appurtenant to small-scale mining operations. Our agreement was premised on the proposal of Jocson which will result in the creation of jobs for the people of Anonang.

How do you resolve conflicts like this? The farmers have rights but so do miners. In economic terms, the gold output of this operation will have a tremendously high value compared to the value produced by subsistence farmers. Yet the INQUIRER article obviously favored the farmers without regard to the rights of the miners.

—PATRICK V. CAOILE, executive vice president and general manager, DEODY V. SOLEE, geology department manager, Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp., 5/F Quad Alpha Centrum Building, 125 Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Misplaced patriotism?

WORLD Cup bowling champion Christian Jan "CJ" Suarez was shown kissing his World Cup trophy on Page A19 of the the INQUIRER's Oct. 9, 2003 issue. Congratulations to CJ Suarez.

Unfortunately, the picture showed him wearing a shirt made out of the Philippine flag. This is a violation of Paragraph e, Section 34, Republic Act No. 8491 which provides that it shall be prohibited to wear the flag in whole or in part as a costume or uniform.

May I call the attention of the National Historical Institute, which is the government agency responsible for the strict enforcement of the "Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines," and the sports associations concerned on the proper observance of respect and reverence for the Philippine flag.

—FRANCISCO T. SAN MIGUEL, Paraiso, Maybangkal, Morong, Rizal

Why Fernando is the better choice

EVERYONE expected President Macapagal-Arroyo to hit the ground running when she was declared President during Edsa II. Instead she hit it campaigning and politicking. Instead of trying to solve the multitudes of problems left by her predecessor, she is forever on the lookout for photo opportunities in her mistaken belief that photo opportunities count better than performance.

We should call her presidency a photo ops presidency. The country continues to lag behind its neighbors economically. Surveys show that the majority of the people feel they are worse off today than when she assumed the presidency.

She has not even bothered to address two of our most serious economic problems, which are the growing budget deficit and the lack of investments. The various chambers of commerce in the country have been calling for better economic policies, even the Asian Development Bank has weighed in and stated that the country is second from the bottom in the influx of foreign investments, and again second to the last in infrastructure. The only country worse off than us on both counts is Bangladesh.

The growing budget deficit could turn into a debt bomb which could devastate the country since the government borrows both here and abroad to fill up this deficit. The lack of investments translates into few jobs for our exploding population which means more people living below the poverty line.

President Macapagal is an economist without an economic policy. She spends most of her time coddling the military or campaigning for reelection. This only proves that she is a weak President and not the strong President she claims to be. For the good of the country, she should no longer run for reelection.

President Macapagal will be doing the country a big favor if she selects Bayani Fernando as standard bearer of the Lakas-CMD Party. Unlike most of our politicians who are conflict-oriented and forever debating everything under the sun, Fernando is solution-oriented. He tries to find solutions to whatever problems he runs into. Garbage collection and traffic in Metro Manila have greatly improved under his watch as MMDA chair.

The trend nowadays is to elect businessmen and even tycoons to run countries since successful businessmen are good managers and efficient administrators, precisely what we need today.

—RICO XERES, Eisenhower Street, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila

PhilHealth clarification

THIS is in reaction to Honesto General's column last Nov. 3, 2003 on the issue of refunding claims for professional fees of PhilHealth members. Through this letter, please allow us to air our side on the matter, as follows:

The support value of our benefit package, especially for ordinary and intensive cases, is no longer just 20 percent of the total hospital bills. In fact, it can reach up to 90 percent for confinements in primary care hospitals and from 60 to 80 percent in secondary care hospitals. It is no surprise then that we have made as much as P4.2 billion in benefit payments in 1999 to as much as P12 billion for the first three quarters this year, proof that indeed, our average value paid per claim is no longer negligible.

A closer look at the official receipt issued by Dr. Asuncion de Vera to the member-patient in the amount of P25,000, showed that the amount indicated therein was for full payment of the professional fees of all attending physicians during the patient's caesarian operation. Hence, the P6,000 we paid for the professional fee of Dr. De Vera and the P1,800 we paid for the professional fee of Dr. Clarissa General, should have been given to the member-patient, as indicated in the Benefit Payment Notice we issued to the member. Both amounts (the P6,000 and P1,800) represent the member's PhilHealth benefits covering professional fees of the attending surgeon and anesthesiologist.

The case is still ongoing and the pre-hearing conference was reset to Nov. 27 at 8:30 a.m. due to the non-appearance of the complainant. In case the complainant fails to appear for two consecutive pre-hearing conferences despite due notice, our arbitration department may, *motu propio* dismiss the case without prejudice.

Rest assured, we are continuously looking for ways to further improve our service delivery to our members, partner-physicians and stakeholders, which includes keeping our lines open for periodic comments from concerned members.

—LINDA B. LAURETA, manager, Corporate Communications Office, PhilHealth, Pasig City

Was F4 idol's visit more than that?

THE RECENT high-profile visit of F4 matinee idol Jerry Yan to Manila, and to Malacañang, may have other meanings. In local politics, Yan was employed to boost the President's popularity in preparation for the coming presidential election. In the realm of diplomacy, however, this could mean anything that only time would tell. For the Philippines, this may be a less controversial way of patronizing Taiwanese goods, without alienating Beijing (with both of whom the Philippines is keeping a delicate balance in pursuit of a "One China Policy").

No doubt, the diplomatic world, including Beijing, closely monitored the recent visit to Manila of the president of the United States. Likewise, Beijing must have noted Yan's visit to Malacañang. Last week, media reports last Nov. 3 made much of the handshake between the US secretary of state and the president of Taiwan on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Panama's independence from Columbia.

For one thing, these two incidents may be part of subtle tactics by the United States and the Philippines on China's nonchalant attitude toward the campaign against international terrorism in Asia. Diplomats discreetly convey and also discern sensitive information by "reading between the lines." They employ symbolic gestures which may seek to gradually shape or alter perceptions in those countries involved. Or we could simply say the F4 matinee idol was in Manila for career-boosting and nothing else.

—RIMAT T. DAYA, 508B Harrison Mansion, 2360 FB Harrison St., Pasay City

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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Jeepney crashes; 15 die

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Fifteen persons, including an Army official and a policeman, were killed on Saturday night when the passenger jeepney they were riding in rammed into a parked hauler truck loaded with sugarcane in Silay City, Negros Occidental.

Five passengers were also injured in the vehicular accident, which, according to authorities, was the worst to happen this year.

Among those killed were Maj. Nelson Gerona, civil military liaison officer of the 303rd Infantry Brigade and PO1 Ariel Salem of the 6th Regional Mobile Group.

Gerona, 39, took the Sta. Lucia Lines passenger jeepney bound for Victorias City, Negros Occidental after attending an induction ceremony of the Riverside Toastmasters Club in Bacolod as a new member.

He was on his way back to the 303rd IB headquarters in Victorias when the accident happened.

Initial police investigation showed that the passenger jeepney reportedly overtook a tricycle and rammed into the ten-wheeler truck at Barangay Rizal, Silay, about 14 kilometers north of this city, at about 10:15 p.m.

The truck with plate number NTT 977 driven by Rhett Montreal Escondeda was parked on the side of the highway because its transmission fell off after hitting another parked truck earlier.

Because of the impact, the roof of the jeepney was removed and half of its body stuck under the rear end of the truck, said Supt. Celestino Guarra, Silay police chief, yesterday.

Leo Justado, radio operator at the Silay police traffic office, said two vehicles had collided along the highway but could not immediately be removed because of the heavy cargo.

The stretch of the highway was dark because two lampposts were not working, but there were early-warning devices along the road, he said.

Justado said the jeepney "looked like it was flattened by a hot iron." The passengers had to be extricated one by one from the twisted wreckage.

Aside from Gerona and Salem, Guarra said the other fatalities were jeepney driver Peter John Gane, Bernie Bustamante, Edwin Garin, Devine Padilla, Melanie Comapas, Roselyn Labrador, Joelibert Aloert Alovero, Gloria Lambayon, Roberto Casela, Eduardo Baliba-los, and three unidentified men.

Wounded were Grace Ledesma, Jay Padilla, Ofelia Bacayo, PO1 Jefferson Fugaha and Marcel Catapang, who were brought to a hospital in Bacolod.

Lawyer Jocelle Batapa-Sigue, a member of the Riverside Toastmasters Club, said they would ask the National Bureau of Investigation to look into allegations that Gerona died due to loss of blood, as he was not immediately attended at a hospital here.

Gerona was rushed to a hospital in Bacolod but was later transferred to another hospital where he died allegedly from loss of blood.

With a report from AP

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Fire guts oldest retail store in Pampanga

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A fire on Sunday gutted Pampanga's oldest and biggest retail store, destroying about P20 million in merchandise.

The fire that hit the four-story Ocampo's Emporium here was placed under control at about 7 a.m. Sunday, Supt. Emmanuel Arrozal, provincial fire marshal, said.

No one was reported hurt but the fire displaced about 50 employees and some 300 students.

At least 10 fire trucks from various Pampanga towns, the San Fernando Electric and Power Co. and the Dee Hwa Liong Foundation took turns in putting out the fire.

Firemen prevented the fire from spreading to two historic buildings and 15 other small stores.

Arrozal said old firewalls still worked to save the Pampanga Hotel, a Spanish home that housed the first public high school established by American Thomasite educators in the province, and the Assumpta Building where Benedictine education began at the start of the 20th century.

Security guard Alfredo Cagahis said he heard an explosion inside the store before the fire broke out at about 1 a.m.

Grace Pangilinan, a scion of the Ocampo family, said the losses could be higher. She said the P20-million estimated losses represented only the stocks in the building that housed the jewelry and appliance shops, clothes and gift outlets and the AMA Computer College branch.

The business, beginning with handcrafted jewelry, was established in 1927 and was diversified to include retail, she said. The building was rebuilt in the 1980s.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Defective lahar monitor gadgets worry officials

LEGAZPI CITY—The top Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) official here has expressed dismay over the useless lahar monitoring devices after villagers reportedly destroyed them.

Arnel Capili, OCD Bicol director, said during the weekly forum of the Albay-Legazpi Press Association here, that the system donated by the Japan International Cooperating Agency (Jica) is not functioning.

Four of the five lahar devices are not working, he said.

"These must be restored, especially that we are now experiencing heavy rains," he said.

He added that they are waiting for the arrival of the Japanese experts who installed the instruments to discuss the repair.

He said there are no available spare parts in the country.

Lahar flows are expected to rampage in various rivers in Albay during the rainy season.

Ed Laguerta, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology resident volcanologist, revealed that around 25 million cubic meters of lahar deposits could be carried away by floodwaters.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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Palace exec says SBMA can implement port project

By Allan Macatuno, *PDI Central Luzon Desk*

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Presidential Assistant for North Luzon Renato Diaz said the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority has the right under the law to start implementing its port modernization program amid the opposition raised by Olongapo City officials.

This was contained in a memorandum Diaz submitted to Malacañang on Nov. 11. The memorandum cited provisions of Republic Act 7227 or the base conversion law that created the SBMA to transform the former Subic Naval Base into an industrial zone.

"In case of conflict between the SBMA and the local government units concerned on matters affecting the Subic Special Economic Zone (other than defense and security), the decision of the SBMA shall prevail," Diaz, quoting Section 14(b) of RA 7227, said.

He said the SBMA has an autonomous power to operate, administer and manage the freeport as a "self-sustaining, industrial, commercial, financial and investment center."

The conflict over the port project has adversely affected the establishment of the proposed Subic-Clark Alliance for Development (Scad) that is expected to spur the development of an agro-industrial and tourism corridor in Central Luzon, Diaz said.

Earlier, Governors Vicente Magsaysay (Zambales), Leonardo Roman (Bataan), Manuel Lapid (Pampanga), Tomas Joson III (Nueva Ecija) and Jose Yap (Tarlac) endorsed the SBMA's port project plan.

Olongapo City Mayor Katherine Gordon and other Olongapo officials, however, are opposing the project, citing environmental concerns, livelihood loss for fishermen, coral reef destruction and water pollution that the project would bring about.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, the Cabinet Officer for Regional Development (Cord) in Central Luzon, is also opposing the project.

He questioned the plan of SBMA to borrow $157 million (about P8.5 billion) to develop a new port.

While saying that he was fully supporting the modernization of the Subic Port, Gordon, former SBMA chair, said he was questioning the feasibility of the SBMA plan in view of the government program to pursue privatization.

He said several groups have expressed concern over the possibility of severe damage to the fragile marine ecosystems in the Cubi Point area once the port is built.

Gordon said there was no need to reclaim 39 hectares in Cubi Point to build a new port because the existing facilities at Subic Bay were already adequate.

CHRISTMAS IN THE AIR TYOTS SOBERANO

The time is ripe for this newspaper vendor in Baguio City to earn additional income by also selling Christmas trees.

Suspected sex den in Davao padlocked

DAVAO CITY—Police on Thursday padlocked a lodging inn allegedly used as sex den for minors. The Women and Children's Desk of the Davao City Police Office, in coordination with the Business Bureau Office, City Legal Office, and City Council's committee on children raided the Jogger's Inn along Magsaysay Avenue and rescued 11 minors. Police also arrested nine suspected pimps. WCD head Senior Insp. Royena Vilela said they will file charges against the nine suspects and lodging inn owner, Tito Mordeno, for violating the Children's Welfare Code.

Erwin Alparaque, Business Bureau chief, said the lodge operates without the required sanitary and business permit.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Farmer gets death for rape of niece

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—A Regional Trial Court here has meted the death penalty 14 times to a farmer for repeatedly raping his niece.

In a 28-page ruling dated Oct. 31 and released on Nov. 6, Judge Rafael Peneula of RTC Branch 64 in Bugasong town found Desederio But guilty of raping the niece of his wife in 1995 when she was eight years old and in 2000 when she was 13.

Peneula also ordered But to pay the victim P845,000 in damages consisting of P75,000 in civil liability and P55,000 in moral damages for each of the 14 counts of qualified rape (when the victim is below 18 years old and the perpetrator is related to the victim within the third civil degree of affinity).

Lawyer Pepin Joey Marfil, counsel of Desederio, said his client would appeal the ruling.

According to the decision, But, now 33, first raped the victim on March 15, 1995 at the house of her grandfather in a hinterland village 7 kilometers from the poblacion of Patnongon town, which is 15 km north of the capital town of San Jose.

The victim who then lived with her parents, about 300 meters away from the house, would often sleep at her grandfather's house where But, her cousins and an aunt also stayed. But's wife was working in Hong Kong at that time.

But raped the victim daily in the next two days following the first assault, the decision said. He assaulted her at night while she slept beside two cousins both 10 years old on the floor of the sala.

The victim said she did not report the rape because But threatened to kill her. She was again raped 11 times from June to July in 2000 at the house of her grandfather and at But's residence in the poblacion.

These rapes happened while the victim slept on the same room with But and his wife Zita.

The victim's family discovered the sexual assaults after Zita told the victim's elder sister about these. Zita, however, warned her not to tell her parents because But might kill all of them.

Zita, however, sided with her husband when she testified in court where she denied that the victim stayed with them.

But also denied raping the girl, saying she would have died if he assaulted her considering that she was only eight during the first assault.

In his ruling, Peneula gave credence to the victim's testimony and overthrew But's alibi.

He noted "with considerable frustration and anxiety" that there were many other similar cases, which he said, signal "an unstoppable regression to the law of the jungle..."

PNP to move cop chiefs with kin running in '04

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—In preparation for next year's polls, Deputy Director Enrique Galang, Philippine National Police director for operations, said the PNP has started reviewing its roster of provincial and town police chiefs to see who among them have relatives running for local positions.

Galang, who visited this camp on Nov. 10, said the move aims to ensure that PNP officials would not be used for political purposes and as "security guards" of some unscrupulous candidates.

He said the PNP would also look at provincial police directors who happen to be serving in the same province where their families hail.

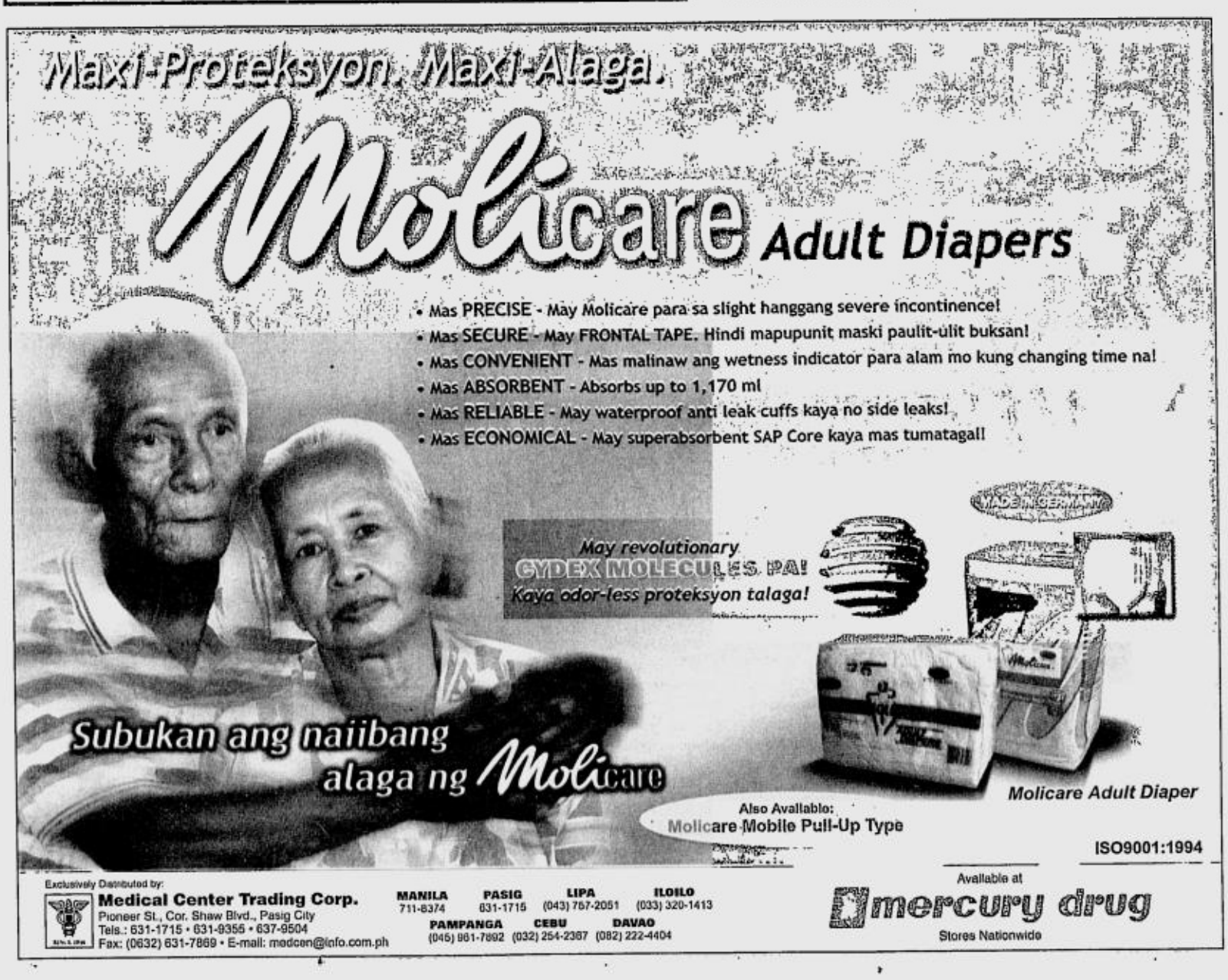
Galang said the whole PNP organization should abide by their mandate "to serve the Filipino without prejudice and protect the Constitution."

He advised PNP officials in the provinces to distance themselves from local politics.

Provincial police directors who have relatives in the local political scene that have shown their intention to run for local seats would be the first ones to be affected by the "revamp," he said. Town police chiefs would follow.

"We want to avoid the situation where the police chiefs are using their position to help their relatives running for a position. We know how Filipinos value their kinship. This is our part in ensuring peaceful elections," he told the INQUIRER.

The former Calabarzon police director said the much talked about revamp in the PNP had started in Mindanao and the Visayas. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



ROUNDUP

Prisoners display crafts

BAGUIO CITY—Handcrafted items by inmates at the Baguio City jail will be among the items to be featured in this year's Philippine Economic Zone Authority-Baguio City Economic Zone (Peza-BCEZ) Christmas fair. The annual fair that showcases export-quality Peza products is held from Nov. 14 to Dec. 31 at the BCEZ multi-purpose court on Loakan Road here. Furniture, bamboo craft, food preserves, jewelry, candles, shoes, bags, leather craft and other novelty items will be on sale.

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

'Viring' destroys P35M rice

ILAGAN, Isabela—Tropical storm "Viring" that hit Cagayan Valley on Nov. 1 destroyed P35.23 million worth of rice and corn in Isabela, according to provincial agriculture officer Danilo Tumamao. He said damage to rice and corn crops in the province's 35 towns and two cities was pegged at P35.23 million. In Cagayan, flash floods destroyed 3,870 hectares of corn land and an undetermined area of rice farms in the province. *Villamor Visaya Jr. and Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Murder cases dismissed

BAGUIO CITY—A prosecutor in Benguet on Friday dismissed the robbery and multiple murder cases filed against a suspect in the P12-million gold bar robbery in Mankayan town last September. Prosecutor Victorio Palangadan dismissed the case against Joseph Coop, one of the seven suspects in the Sept. 20 robbery at the Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. in Mankayan, for lack of sufficient evidence. A statement from the Dinteg-Cordillera Human Rights Organization (CHRO) said preliminary investigation showed that Coop was not in the crime scene during the robbery. An LCMC engineer and four guards were killed in that incident.

Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

New California gov has taste for finest

From page A1

early years in the Austrian military.

That's just one example of the appetite for extremes that the new governor of California will bring to Sacramento, where he'll be sworn into office on Monday. There, the tanned, Armani-clad action star will mingle and make policy with the rumpled suits of the state legislature.

Knowing Schwarzenegger's blow-'em-up movie image, it's easy to imagine the "The Terminator" star roaring one of his Hummers up the steps of the state Capitol with an expensive cigar clenched in his gap-toothed grin.

But friends and associates say Schwarzenegger's ability to get what he wants depends on his adapting to his surroundings and playing with expectations. While glitz earns respect in Hollywood, he may have to tone down his flash for the sometimes stuffier crowd found in state politics.

"He uses his props rather well," said George Butler, the filmmaker whose 1977 bodybuilding documentary, "Pumping Iron," helped make Schwarzenegger a Hollywood icon.

"Arnold learned very early that in America, particularly the America of the '70s and '80s ... There was a new era and it was about strength, health, wealth, narcissism and power. Arnold got that," Butler added. "He got it right from the very start that money was the root of power."

Favorite things

These are a few—just a few—of his favorite things: a mansion in Brentwood; a ski lodge in Sun Valley, Idaho; a Boeing 747 he leases to Singapore Air; a small fleet of road-squeezing Hummers; a custom-made, $36,000 watch; Cohiba cigars; custom-crafted humidors; and Indian Chief motorcycles.

The product most people identify with Schwarzenegger is the Hummer, the hulking military-designed sport utility vehicle that he helped popularize among civilians. He reportedly has five of the original designs and one new model Hummer H2.

Environmentalists criticized his use of the gas-guzzling vehicles during his campaign. Schwarzenegger then promised to retrofit one of the three-ton vehicles to run on cleaner-burning hydrogen fuel instead of gasoline.

That's standard issue for Schwarzenegger: He likes to customize.

The owner of a red-and-black Indian Chief motorcycle, Schwarzenegger had two of the machines specially designed to appear as police motorbikes in last summer's "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines." They were later auctioned last year for $80,000 to benefit a ballot initiative for an after-school program that the actor spearheaded.

His vehicle collection also includes a custom-made Pinzgauer, a six-wheel, all-terrain payload vehicle with a canvas top originally manufactured in his native Austria. Schwarzenegger asked the company this year to build him a version with fuel injection, a larger engine and faster gearing because he thought the original design was too slow, said Theo Hanson, vice president of SoCal Pinzgauer.

"He didn't go for anything flashy or flamboyant," Hanson added, but Schwarzenegger did buy a second one to give to a nephew.

In any case, he won't be driving for a while.

As governor, the California Highway Patrol will chauffeur him, in addition to providing security. Unlike most California governors, however, Schwarzenegger has—and will maintain—a private security detail.

Social scene

On the social scene, Schwarzenegger founded the Santa Monica restaurant Schatzi on Main—German for "sweetheart"—in 1991 with wife Maria Shriver, and regularly turns up for cigar nights there. According to an interview in Cigar Aficionado magazine, his usual brand of smokes are Cohibas and Montecristo No. 2s. Boxes of 25 can range from $350 to $500.

He also frequents the Grand Havana Room in Beverly Hills, a private club where he is one of hundreds with a personal cigar humidor built into the club's walls.

Besides cars and cigars, the muscleman has a fancy for timepieces. His collection includes nearly two dozen watches from Swiss manufacturer Audemars Piguet.

The company created special, limited-edition titanium and platinum watches for several of his movies, including one for "End of Days" that retailed for about $13,600; another for "The 6th Day" for $18,650; and one for "Terminator 3" that was designed to look industrial, for $19,900. Many of the pieces were auctioned to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for Schwarzenegger's Inner City Games Foundation.

Schwarzenegger himself prefers the company's Royal Oak Offshore line, and 400 were recently created in a yellow gold design etched with his signature. Retail: $36,200.

The oversized dimensions for each watch were chosen by Schwarzenegger himself.

"You cannot do anything with Arnold without getting his input. He wants to be involved from A to Z," said Francois-Henry Bennahmias, president of Audemars Piguet's North American division.

Bennahmias described Schwarzenegger's tastes as "very masculine, no doubt."

"Sometimes Arnold sees people or some of his friends wearing other watches and he'll come up to them and say, 'That's a girlie watch,'" Bennahmias said, adopting a deep Austrian growl.

Schwarzenegger is not a modest fellow, but he's not a gold-toilet-seat kind of guy either.

"He's definitely not the most decadent," said Michael Hirschorn, an executive producer of VH1's "The Fabulous Life of ... " series, which has produced specials about Schwarzenegger and celebrities such as Jennifer Lopez and Britney Spears. "Since he's a little older, not having wild, over-the-top parties."

Pedicures

VH1's look at his treasures revealed only one indulgence that seemed out of character: Schwarzenegger loves pedicures.

"That's the only part of the piece that is slightly at odds with the super-butchness of the rest of his persona," Hirschorn said.

Schwarzenegger seems to balance his appetite for luxury with wise money-management.

"It would be exhausting to live every single moment of your life at an extravagant fever pitch," Hirschorn said.

Over the years, the actor has used his movie earnings as capital. Among other things, he has invested in real-estate, technology companies and a mall in Columbus, Ohio, where he has an annual fitness exposition. *AP*

2 Black Hawks crash in Iraq

From page A1

area but could not say where it came from.

One soldier at the scene told The Associated Press that he heard that one of the helicopters was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade before it crashed.

One witness, Nafe Younis, said he was sitting on the roof of his house when he saw the rotor blades of the two helicopters hit each other.

One of the helicopters then "hit into the house and a few minutes later, it went ablaze," said Younis, who lives across the street from where one of the helicopters crashed.

Even so, a US military spokesperson said such reports were "at best speculative."

By Sunday morning, soldiers were busy clearing the rubble at the two crash sites. Two cranes were being towed in to help the clean-up operation.

Before the crash, the US military's deadliest incident was the downing of a Chinook transport helicopter on Nov. 2 that killed 16 soldiers. A Black Hawk was also shot down on Nov. 7, killing all six soldiers on board.

There were days early in the war in which more soldiers died, but they were spread over several attacks or accidents.

Earlier Saturday, a soldier of the 1st Armored Division was killed by a roadside bomb in Baghdad. The crash put the number of American casualties since the March invasion at 417.

The crash occurred about 6:30 p.m. after sundown, but both pilots were qualified for limited visibility flying, the military said. The aircraft came from the 101st Airborne Division from Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

The plan for a new Iraqi government reflected Washington's desire to speed up the handover of power as attacks against American occupation forces grow more sophisticated and deadly. The Bush administration dropped its insistence that a constitution be drawn up and elections held before the transfer takes place.

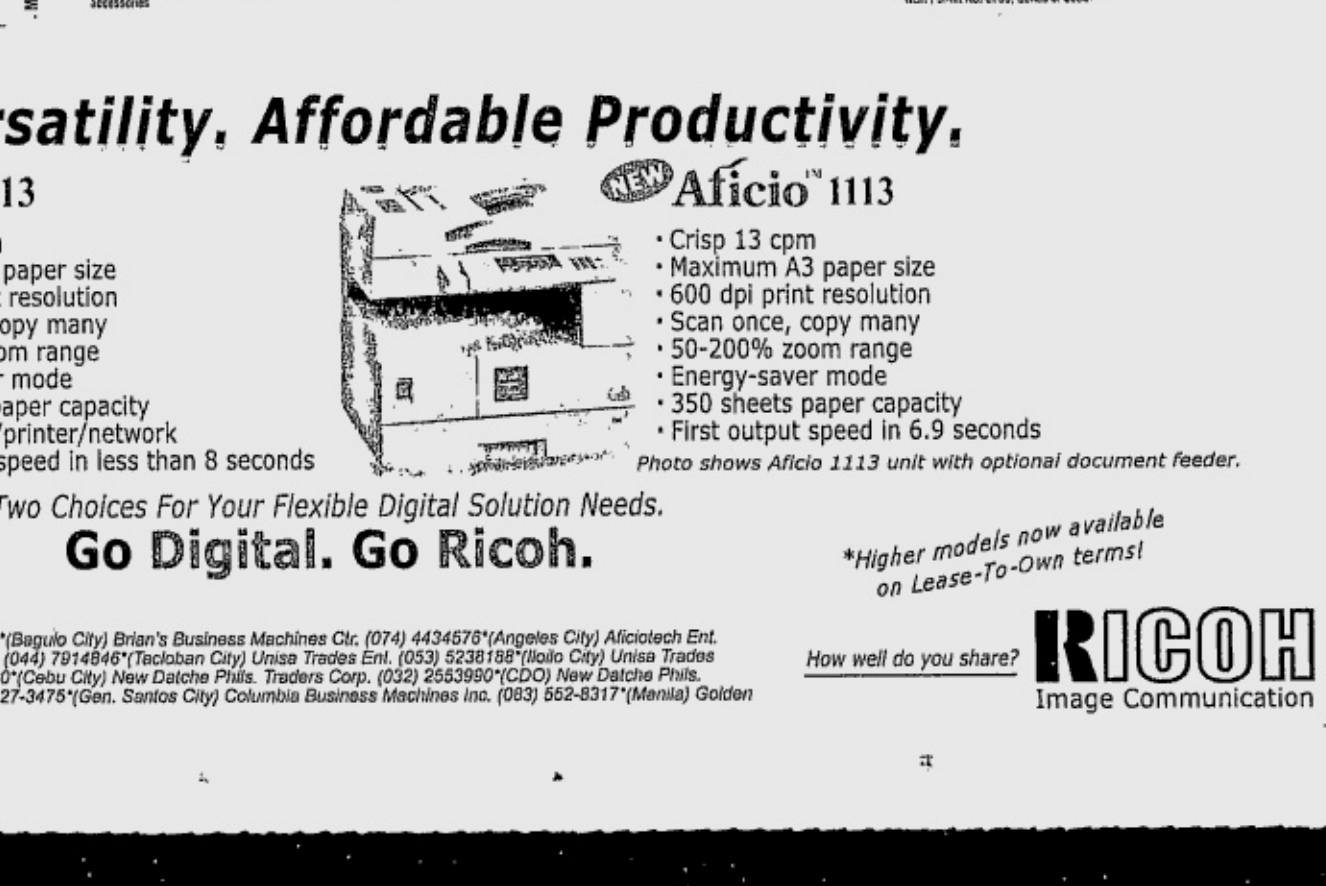
However, one of the 24 members of Iraq's Governing Council warned that "execution of the plan won't be easy" without improvement in the security situation and a revival of Iraq's economy.

The council, which has acted as Iraq's interim administration since it was appointed in July, announced a set of deadlines that would give Iraq a provisional national assembly by May, a transitional administration with full sovereign powers in June and an elected government before the end of 2005.

With the return of sovereignty in June, the US military occupation will formally end, although American forces are expected to remain in Iraq under a new arrangement to be worked out with the Iraqis.

Until a constitution is drafted and adopted, a basic law will be promulgated by the Governing Council and it will take effect in February.

The law, according to an official statement, would establish a democratic and federal state that "respects the Islamic identity of the majority of the Iraqi people with the guarantee of the right of other religions and sects." *AP*



Joe Burgos dies

From page A1

the dark years of martial rule, Burgos died yesterday morning at the Cardinal Santos Memorial Hospital in San Juan, Metro Manila, after a long bout with cancer. He was 62.

He would be remembered for fighting the Marcos dictatorship and its excesses with the power of the written word. He pushed journalism to the limits, that the world might know the truth.

The first words of a family statement on his passing identified Burgos as a "journalist-farmer." Whatever other roles he chose to play in the past few years, none could eclipse his part in the country's history.

Burgos was listed among the "50 Press Freedom Heroes of the Century" in 2000 by the prestigious International Press Institute. In May of the same year, the Philippine Senate unanimously passed Resolution No. 52 honoring him for "heroic deeds and steadfast struggle as a journalist."

Burgos was the founder, publisher and editor of We Forum, a feisty tabloid that became the source of vital information in the late 1970s through the early 1980s, when most media establishments were gagged.

He started his career with The Philippines Herald in 1961. In the late 1960s, as an investigative police reporter of the Times-Mirror-Taliba newspapers, he wrote about the election-related violence in Ilocos Sur, his home province. For this reportage, he was named one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men of 1970.

When martial law was declared in 1972 and the Roces publications were padlocked, Burgos worked briefly with the National Housing Authority and the Philippine National Oil Co. and then set out to publish an independent newspaper. In May 1977, WE (For The Young Filipino) hit the streets. The tabloid would later be renamed We Forum.

Burgos' close interaction with opposition leaders, including his friend Benigno Aquino Jr., influenced the direction of the courageous little paper (circulation: 20,000). Among other exposés, We Forum serialized a report on Ferdinand Marcos' fake war medals.

In December 1982, the newspaper office was raided. Alleged financier Joaquin "Chino" Roces, former Manila Times publisher, was placed under house arrest.

Burgos was charged with sedition and detained at Fort Bonifacio, but the international outcry forced the government to release him.

With the charges still pending in court, Burgos published Ang Pahayagang Malaya, a weekly national broadsheet. It became a daily newspaper after Aquino's assassination on Aug. 21, 1983. We Forum resumed publication in 1985 after the Supreme Court, in a landmark decision, declared the 1982 raid illegal and overturned the government case against Burgos.

Malaya boldly chronicled all the events leading to the People Power revolt (Edsa 1) that toppled the Marcos dictatorship in 1986. The InterPress Service promptly named him "International Journalist of the Year." He received the award in rites at the United Nations headquarters in New York City.

After democracy was restored, Burgos ventured into organic farming, complementing this endeavor with multi-awarded forays into science and agriculture journalism.

He also anchored a weekly radio program, "Sa Kabukiran," which was named Most Outstanding Agriculture Radio Program in 1996. A few months before his death, he was anchoring a similar program with his wife Edith on Radio Veritas.

Burgos' remains lie at the Land Farm in San Miguel, Bulacan, a family property where he had lived for the last 15 years. He is survived by his wife and their five children.

Although his last expressed wish was simply for prayers as much for his beloved country as for himself, journalists and friends will bid this lover of truth and freedom a fond and blazing farewell.

THE BIG Dome, the Araneta Coliseum, is also aglow during the holidays. EDWIN BACASMAS

Tallest Christmas tree aglitter anew in Cubao

From page A1

sign of how this once pioneering urban complex is losing out to sleeker and more orderly malls that have emerged in the metropolis.

Some catching up

Like the police officer, local leaders concede that Cubao needs to do some catching up.

"We want to reclaim our status," Araneta Center president Teofilo Asuncion said at the ceremonial lighting of the 85-foot Christmas Tree on Saturday. With the COD show gone, the tree is arguably the only major Yuletide outdoor attraction in the area.

In separate interviews, Asuncion and Durana said an urban renewal effort, dubbed "Wow Cubao!" to echo the current Wow! Philippines mantra of the Department of Tourism is in the works.

The plan involves, among other things, reworking the traffic routes. At present, public utility jeepneys are free to use the streets around the Araneta Coliseum, creating a choked, noisy environment that sends shoppers to the more open, calmer spaces in Makati City or Ortigas Avenue.

Citing Subic as his model, Asuncion said the area's security system would also be upgraded with the deployment of more mounted and radio-equipped private security guards and traffic management personnel.

He admitted that the prolonged construction of the LRT-2 line along Aurora Boulevard, the other major thoroughfare after Edsa that leads to the Araneta Center, was bad for business. The resulting traffic congestion caused by the unfinished rail project simply kept people out, he said.

"I heard that this was also one of the complaints of COD," he added.

He said old attractions would be reinvented and new ones introduced, pointing to a mini-construction frenzy in what for the meantime are dark pockets of the center.

Fiesta Carnival

The Fiesta Carnival, which is currently closed, will be relocated and turned into an outdoor amusement park.

The New Frontier Theater, which for some years held the distinction of being the largest in the country, will be refurbished as a live performance venue.

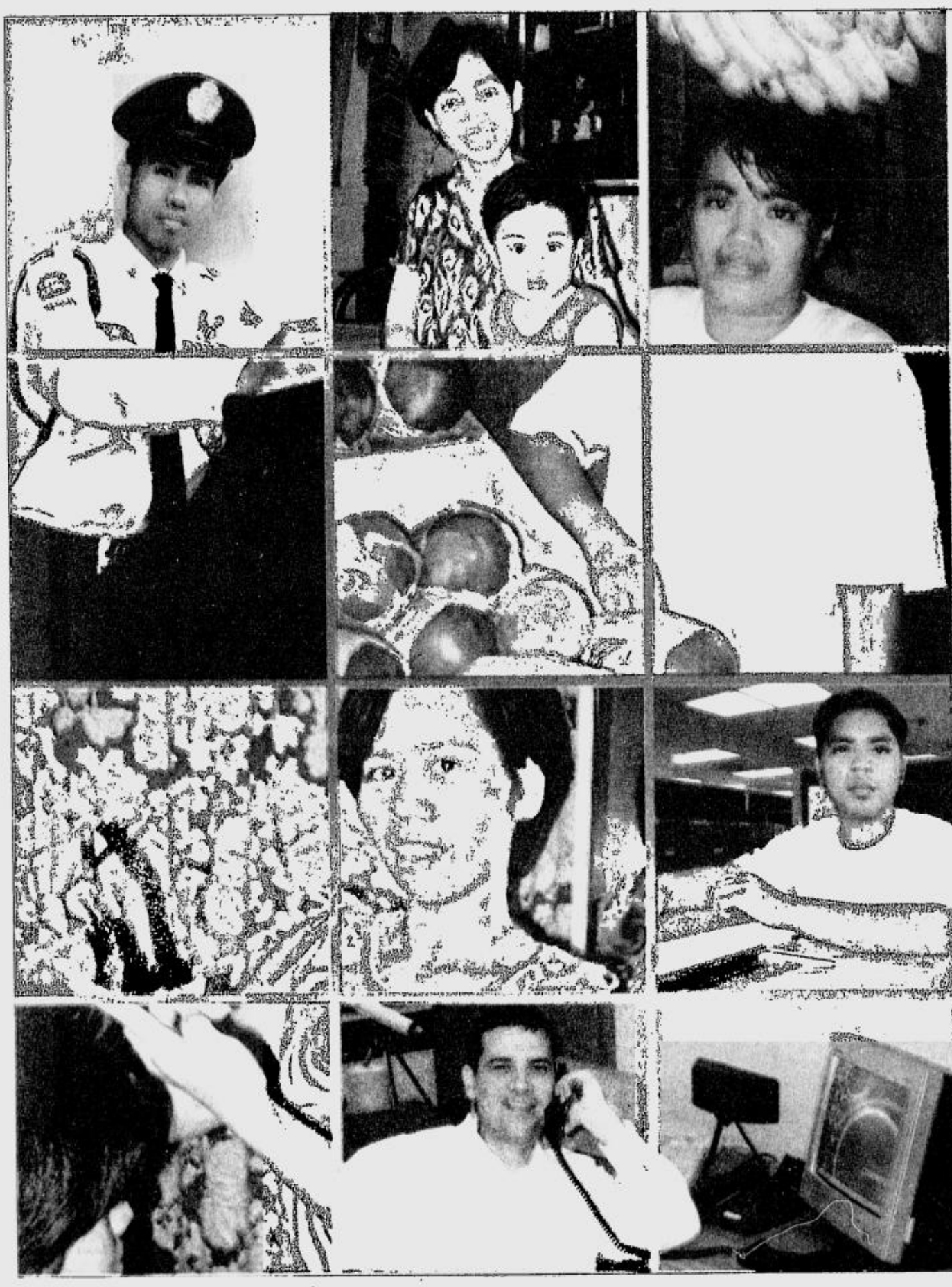
And yes, Cubao will soon open Gateway, which will have a feature not yet found in any mall in the country: a 450-sq.m. "indoor garden that is open to the sky." This means that an inside part of the mall would actually get some sunshine and rainfall.

When completed in March, Gateway will also be the only mall where customers would have walkways leading to two different mass transit systems, the MRT on Edsa and LRT 2 on Aurora, according to Asuncion.

Of course, the main crowd-drawer—the Big Dome—will continue to have shows "at least 200 days in a year, from concerts to cockfights."

Durana, one of the local leaders who drafted the Wow! Cubao plan, recalled that "in the old times, Cubao was the place to be, a community of many firsts in leisure and shopping. The country's first air-conditioned mall was our Ali Mall, for example. It was here before there was Makati, and when Ortigas and Libis were but mere *kugonan* (grassland)."

"But a markering guru once observed that 70 percent of the time customers are lost not because prices went up, but because companies failed to continue connecting with the people," he said, apparently summing up Cubao's decline.



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Social Development Week

November 17-21, 2003

The Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO) hosts Social Development Week 2003, following its milestone decade celebration in 2001. This year's theme, "Makiisa. Tayo Na!", is a call for solidarity as CODE-NGO leads its eleven member networks on a week-long gathering to discuss the current Philippine social development landscape. The general public is invited and encouraged to take part in this event, an opportunity for Filipinos to show their support for non-government efforts to establish a more progressive nation.

Let us work towards national development by knowing more, doing more. Makiisa. Tayo na sa Social Development Week!

Programme of Activities

METRO MANILA ACTIVITIES

OPENING CEREMONY
November 17, Monday, 5:00 pm
Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala Center, Makati City

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MARKET & PHOTO EXHIBIT
November 17-21
Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala Center, Makati City
Interested parties may call Ms. Joey Alegre of the Association of Foundations at the following contact numbers: 911-9792 or 913-7231

DEVELOPMENT FORUM SERIES
November 17-20

November 17, Monday

National Consultation: Defining Support Systems to CSO-Initiated Organic Rice Production and Marketing
Venue: PhilDHRRA Partnership Center. #59 C. Salvador Street, Loyola Heights, QC . 12 noon to 3:00 pm
Sponsored by: Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (PhilDHRRA)
Contact person: Jaybee Garganera: 4266740 or 4360702

November 18, Tuesday

Doing Business with Business and Market Opportunities
Venue: SGV Hall, AIM Conference Center. 8:30 to 11:30 am
Sponsored by: Association of Foundations (AF)
Contact person: Joey Alegre: 911-9792 or 913-7231

National Forum on Child Protection in Residential Care Programs
Venue: St. Benilde College, De La Salle University, Manila, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sponsored by: National Council of Social Development (NCSD)
Contact person: Marian Opena: 7428938

National Forum on Organic Rice and Launching of the International Year of Rice 2004
Venue: Somerset-Olympia Hotel, Makati City 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Sponsored by: Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (PhilDHRRA), Philippine Development Assistance Programme (PDAP), and the AIM Policy Center
Contact Persons: Jaybee Garganera: 4266740 or 4360702; Bernie Berondo: 9221979

Small and Medium Enterprise Forum: Enterprising Moves

Module 1: Packaging & Labeling
8:00 am to 12:00 nn
Module 2: Information Technology
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Venue: Reading Room, Filipinas Heritage Library, Ayala Ave., Makati City
Sponsored by: Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)
Contact person: Rene Fortuno: 527-7741

November 19, Wednesday

Small and Medium Enterprise Forum: Enterprising Moves

Module 3: Export Opportunities
8:00 am to 12:00 nn
Module 4: Franchising
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Venue: Reading Room, Filipinas Heritage Library, Ayala Ave., Makati City
Sponsored by: Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)
Contact person: Rene Fortuno: 527-7741

Forum on the Future of the Cities
Venue: Room 4, Institute of Social Order (ISO), Ateneo de Manila, Loyola Heights, QC 1:30 to 5:00 pm
Sponsored by: Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA)
Contact person: Melanie Garcia: 426-5994 or 426-4328

November 20, Thursday

Housing Cooperative Forum for Luzon Cooperatives (NATCCO)
Venue: NATCCO Hostel and Training Center, Project 4, Quezon City
Sponsored by: National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO)
Contact person: Ma. Lourdes Hernandez: 913-7011 to 15

KILALANIN, KILATISIN: A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES FORUM
November 22, Saturday,
8:30 am - 12 nn
Auditorium,
Ateneo Professional Schools,
Rockwell Drive, Makati City

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Senator Panfilo Lacson have confirmed their participation.
Interested parties may call Ms. Amy Perez of the Ateneo Center for Social Policy and Public Affairs at the following contact numbers: 426-6061 or 426-6062

7th CODE-NGO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
November 20-21
Somerset Millenium Hotel, Makati City

CLOSING CONCERT
November 21, Friday, 7:00 pm
Glorietta Activity Center,
Ayala Center
Makati City

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

LUZON

CORDILLERA NETWORK OF DEVELOPMENT NGOs AND POs (CORDNET)
CORDNET Social Development Week
January 2004
Details to be announced. For inquiries, please call Mayette Paragas: (074)444-7197

COALITION FOR BICOL DEVELOPMENT (CBD)
For inquiries, please call Malou Capucao: (054) 4722569

November 10-14
- Distribution of information materials to provincial networks on "Social Development" for their respective provincial information campaigns
- Distribution of proposed resolutions to cities, municipalities and provinces on the observance of Social Development Week

November 17
- Simultaneous offering of thanksgiving mass in the provincial parishes at 5:00 in the afternoon
- Display of streamers on the SDW celebrations in plazas and other public places in the 6 provinces and Naga City
- Press releases

November 18
- SDW Celebrations Motorcade in Naga city
- Citizens Movement for a Federal Philippines-Camarines Sur Launching

November 19
- Sorsogon's "Report to the People"
- Forum: The Party-List System of Elections and the SOCDEV-Oriented Parties

November 20
- Provincial Network Assessment & Planning
- 10th Inter-NGO Friendship Games
- Provincial Forum on Social Development

November 21
- An Alternative Concert in Naga City

November 28
- An Assessment of the CBD Network's Performance in 2003

VISAYAS

PARTNERSHIP OF PHILIPPINE SUPPORT SERVICE AGENCIES (PHILSSA)
For inquiries, please call
Teresita Barcoma (034)435-3857;
Amie Rhea Verdeslor (032)412-6862, 412-6328
November 17
IRC, Cabahar Street, Guadalupe, Cebu City
Reflection - Sharing cum Forum of Social Development Workers

VISAYAS NETWORK OF DEVELOPMENT NGOs (VISNET-R6). For inquiries, please call Boyet Areño (033)320-3590
"Katilingban Maghiliusa: Sabat sa Mapag-on nga Republika"
(Civil Society Response to the Challenge of the Strong Republic)

December 1
Launching of NGO-PO Week
- Opening Ceremonies: Motorcade/Caravan, Foot Parade, Ecumenical Service
- World AIDS Day Commemoration. Local Updates on STD HIV/AIDS

December 2
Trade Fair, Marketing and Product Display

December 4
Start of Alternative Classes
- On the Spot Contest: Painting, Essay - High School / Elementary
- Focal Issue: Voter's Education / Electoral Reforms

December 5
VISNET Sub-regional Conference
- Forum on Environmental / Coastal / Water / Energy Concerns and Initiatives
- Fluvial Parade, Foot parade for Environmental Concerns
- Unveiling of Monument of Commitment to protect the Iloilo River
- Battle of the Bands

December 6
2nd NGO / PO Congress: CSO-GO-LGU Dialogue

MINDANAO

PHILIPPINE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES IN RURAL AREAS (PhilDHRRA-Mindanao)
For inquiries, please call Rolando Abando (082) 221-3789
November 27
Regional Forum on Integrating Peace and Development Approach in SIAD Interventions
Mindanao Training & Resource Center, Davao Medical School, Bajada, Davao City

PARTNERSHIP OF PHILIPPINE SUPPORT SERVICE AGENCIES (PHILSSA)
For inquiries, please call Ermin Stan Pimentel
(088)858-3116, (08822)723-116 local 3215
November 18
Xavier University,Corrales Avenue, Cagayan de Oro City
Reflection - Sharing cum Forum of Social Development Workers

MINDANAO COALITION OF DEVELOPMENT NGOs (MINCODE) For inquiries, please call Dolores Corro: (082) 2990625
November 11
Network Consultations

November 12
8th MINCODE General Assembly

Public Forum on Federalism and Political Process 2004
Date and Venue to be announced

November 14-15
Mindanao Education Budget Forum

CODE-NGO network members:
- Association of Foundations
- Coalition for Bicol Development
- Cordillera Network of Development NGOs and POs
- Mindanao Coalition of Development NGOs
- National Confederation of Cooperatives
- National Council of Social Development
- National Secretariat for Social Action - Justice and Peace
- Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies
- Philippine Business for Social Progress
- Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas
- Visayas Network of Development NGOs

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METRO

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

UP STUDY ON FECAL COLIFORM

Malabon exec: No cause for alarm

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

MALABON officials are now trying to control the damage sparked by a University of the Philippines study, alleging that water coming out of taps in the city has a high content of the disease-causing fecal coliform bacteria.

City officials are calling on the people not to panic, saying that there is still no cause for alarm.

A nongovernment organization has released the UP National Research Sciences Institute study showing that the water supply in Malabon, particularly in Barangay Longos, is not safe.

But acting city mayor Jayjay Yambao said that their own tests prove otherwise.

"We have grown tired of making the rounds (to verify the unsafe water allegation)," Yambao told the INQUIRER yesterday. "It may be that (some people) are just mad at Maynilad Water Services, Inc."

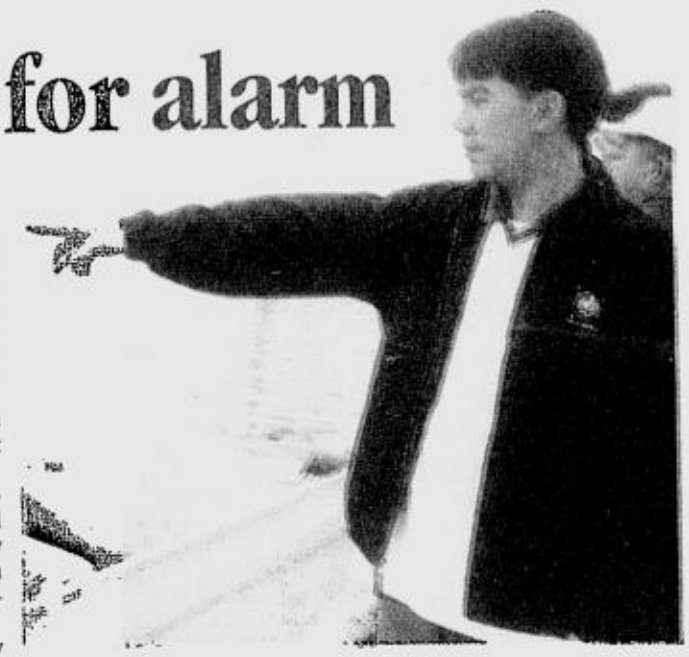
Maynilad is the private concessionaire supplying water in the Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela) area.

Just to be sure, Yambao said that they have begun rationing drinking water in different parts of the city.

The militant group Freedom from Debt Coalition on Friday released the UP-NSRI study which showed that drinking water in Malabon City contained 16 fecal coliform bacteria per 100 ml.—about 14 times more than the national standard for safe water.

In a statement, the FDC said the presence of fecal coliform bacteria in drinking water is a "cause for concern, as many diseases can be spread through fecal transmission."

Another group earlier reported that five cholera cases have been recorded in Malabon City.



YADAO, acting Malabon mayor

City health officer Roberto Romero yesterday told the INQUIRER that the initial results of the test they had conducted on Thursday showed that the water supply in Barangay Longos was safe.

But he said that the test results still have to be verified.

Romero said he would also meet with members of the FDC to validate the group's study.

"If their study proves to be correct, we would act to ensure the safety of our people," Romero said. "But as of now, we still have to verify the reports."

DoE cracks down on hawkers of bottled fuel

By Ronnel Domingo

PEOPLE who are in the business of selling fuel contained in recycled softdrink bottles—virtual molotov cocktails—may go the way of the dodo.

In a meeting with oil refiners, suppliers and distributors on Friday, Department of Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. announced that they would be cracking down on illegal retailers of liquid petroleum products like gasoline and diesel.

"This includes the 'bote-bote' method of reselling, where fuel is sold in softdrink bottles," Perez said.

In a circular issued on Friday, Perez said that the sale of fuel in non-approved stations would also be strictly prohibited.

"Public safety is our main concern here, given the inherent danger of handling liquid petroleum products."

Perez said selling fuel straight out of mobile dispensing trucks would also be banned since retailers are not properly equipped to prevent oil from being washed down drainage systems.

The circular requires all retail stations to have an initial minimum lot area of 100 square meters, be able to accommodate vehicles within its business premises, and use DOE-approved dispensing pumps.

The circular also requires uncalibrated, unsealed and inaccurate pumps to be marked "out of order" and padlocked.

The circular provides that only liquid petroleum products that meet requirements set by the Philippine National Standards may be sold in the market.

Perez said the DOE would conduct random and unannounced inspection and taking of samples to monitor compliance to the circular.

Tricycle driver slain in 'bulalo' brawl

TRICYCLE driver Noli Baruwed yesterday was just eating bulalo, or beef stew, in a Quezon City canteen when he figured in a fight and was shot to death.

SPO1 Fidencio Basibas yesterday told the INQUIRER that Baruwed did not know that he was irritating security guard Val Berio, 30, and a certain Bater when he kept on asking a lot of things from the food servers, while they were all having breakfast at Gloria's Bulaluhan on Liberty Avenue, Barangay Socorro, Cubao.

Witnesses told police that when Berio got upset, he shouted at the victim and told him, "*pag nagsalita ka pa, ikaw na ang ibabalot namin* (if you talk again, we will wrap you up like food)."

In a moment, the two were exchanging blows. Bater pulled out a gun and shot Baruwed in the chest, SPO1 Basibas said.

The suspects tried to flee, but Baruwed's fellow drivers caught up with Berio and beat him up.

At the police station, Berio told the INQUIRER that he was on his way to work when the drivers started to beat him up.

"I just dropped by to eat breakfast," Berio said in Filipino. "When I was about to leave, I heard a gunshot. I did not know someone was killed." *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

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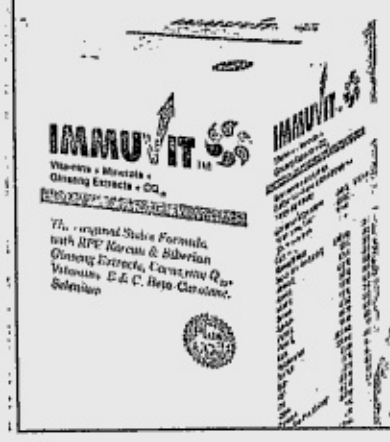

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No favors for vendors

HERE HE COMES
An enterprising Pinoy is setting up for sale a Santa Claus doll at a sidewalk along Arellano Street, Manila, as the yuletide season nears. ERIK ARAZAS

By Christine Paita and Tarra Quismundo

CHRISTMAS or no Christmas, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will not allow vendors on the sidewalks of the metropolis.

In the radio program "MMDA sa GMA," MMDA chair Bayani Fernando said vendors should not make the holidays an excuse to set up their wares in places where they are prohibited.

"We are not giving special authority or clearance. Let's not think that just because it's Christmas, we would allow you to vend on sidewalks," Fernando stressed.

He said the MMDA understood the situation of the vendors, but the law must be followed.

The MMDA chair explained that when vendors sell on the sidewalks, stall owners who pay rent and legally conduct business lose sales.

Fernando added that people had also been complaining of vendors who are unruly and who throw their trash in front of their houses or establishments.

He thus advised vendors to steer clear of the sidewalks and find a place where they can legally set up their goods.

The chairman urged residents to be wary of policemen or barangay officials who allow vendors in prohibited places.

"*Pag may* sidewalk vendors *diyan, tingnan ninyo ang kapitan ninyo. Baka may ginagawang kalokohan,* (If there are sidewalk vendors in your area, observe your captain. He might be doing something illegal)," Fernando said.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Robert Nacianceno, general manager, said some sidewalks in Metro Manila had been cleared because the vendors had cooperated with the MMDA.

Nonetheless, he said MMDA personnel would keep an eye on cleared areas and sustain their clearing operations.

However, the MMDA will be virtually off limits in Manila, where Manila Mayor Joselito Atienza Jr. will be implementing his own controls over vendors.

"There are many vendors appealing to be given special permits so that they can sell in other streets during the holidays. But we will not allow them," said Atienza in a phone interview.

Vendors, he said, have been asking City Hall to allow them to do business in Juan Luna and Ilaya Streets, both within the Divisoria commercial area.

But Atienza said that the city's 15,000 or so street and sidewalk vendors would have to comply with the city's vending regulations or they "will be arrested."

With this program in place, Atienza said he would not allow the MMDA to conduct clearing operations in Manila.

METROBRIEFS

Merry Xmas pot

RALPH Rey, a Canadian businessman, of BSA Tower, Legaspi Village, Makati City, received a QuikPac package at about 10:30 p.m. Saturday sent by a certain Reynaldo Beronio. Rey, who had been wary of a local business partner with whom he had a falling out, asked the building's security guard, Jimmy Campanan, to check the package which had the greetings "Maligayang Pasko" on the outside. Campanan found dried marijuana leaves inside. PO1 Alex Inopia said it could have been an attempt to frame Rey. He said that had the package been delivered to Rey's room, he was liable to be arrested for possession of illegal drugs. *Christine A. Paita*

Body in vacant lot

A PASSERBY found the body of an unidentified woman in a vacant lot at the corner of Mindanao Avenue corner Regalado Avenue in Barangay Greater Lagro at about 9:30 a.m Saturday. She appeared to have been strangled, the police said. Beside the body was a bond paper with the words: "drug pusher." The victim was between 35-40 years old, 5 feet and 2 inches in height, dark-skinned and was wearing jeans and a white blouse. A Central Police District Investigation Unit policeman told the INQUIRER yesterday the woman could have been killed by vigilantes. However, there have also been reports that certain lawmen in the city had been liquidating police informants who "know too much" of their illegal activities. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Young and deadly

ROLANDO Barbado, 30, a tanod of Barangay 890, Zone 98 in New Panaderos, Sta. Ana, Manila, responded to the call of duty and was stabbed dead by several young men at about 2:30 a.m. yesterday. SPO2 William Gondranios of the Western Police District Homicide Section said Barbado was doing laundry outside his house when a group of young men brandishing knives passed by. Sensing trouble, Barbado confronted them but got their ire. Two of the suspects attacked the tanod, who was stabbed twice in the body. *Tarra Quismundo*

Traffic-laden Cainta insists on cityhood

WHILE motorists and commuters suffer under deplorable traffic conditions in Cainta, Rizal, its mayor Nicanor Felix is busy campaigning to have his town declared into a city.

Every day, especially at rush hour, people know that they are already in Cainta or are approaching the town when traffic grinds to a near halt due to seemingly endless roadwork.

Motorists along Ortigas Avenue coming from Pasig City have to slow down to a snail's pace as they cross the boundary with the town, where the road suddenly narrows as they come near the Cainta Junction.

On another approach to Cainta, coming from the Marcos Highway, "repairs" on what motorists described as previously "fine" and "undamaged" roads fronting the Sta. Lucia Mall, has increased travel time by two hours.

And while town officials cannot seem to solve this problem, Felix on Friday sought the help of President Macapagal-Arroyo in having Cainta declared as a city.

Macapagal-Arroyo was in Cainta to award lots to 200 indigent families in the Upper Quatro Resettlement Area in barangay San Juan.

Felix said the President's help was crucial since Cainta's cityhood bid was being blocked by politicians whom he refused to name.

Cityhood would allow the local government to raise taxes in Cainta, which relies heavily on real property as a revenue source.

Most of the people now suffering in the town's bad traffic stand to be hit hardest by the higher taxes. *Nelson Forte Flores*

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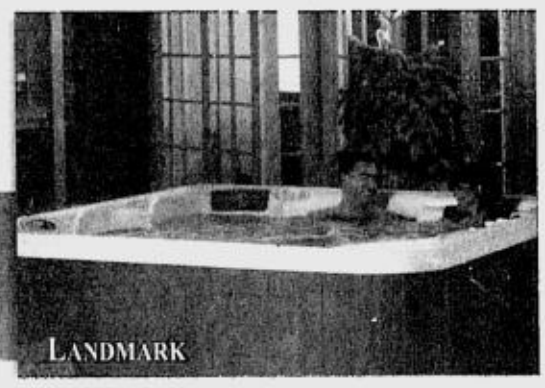

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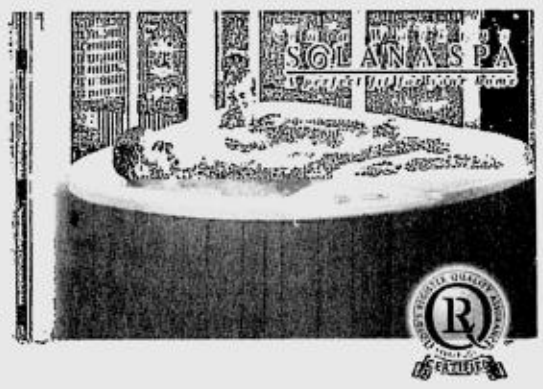

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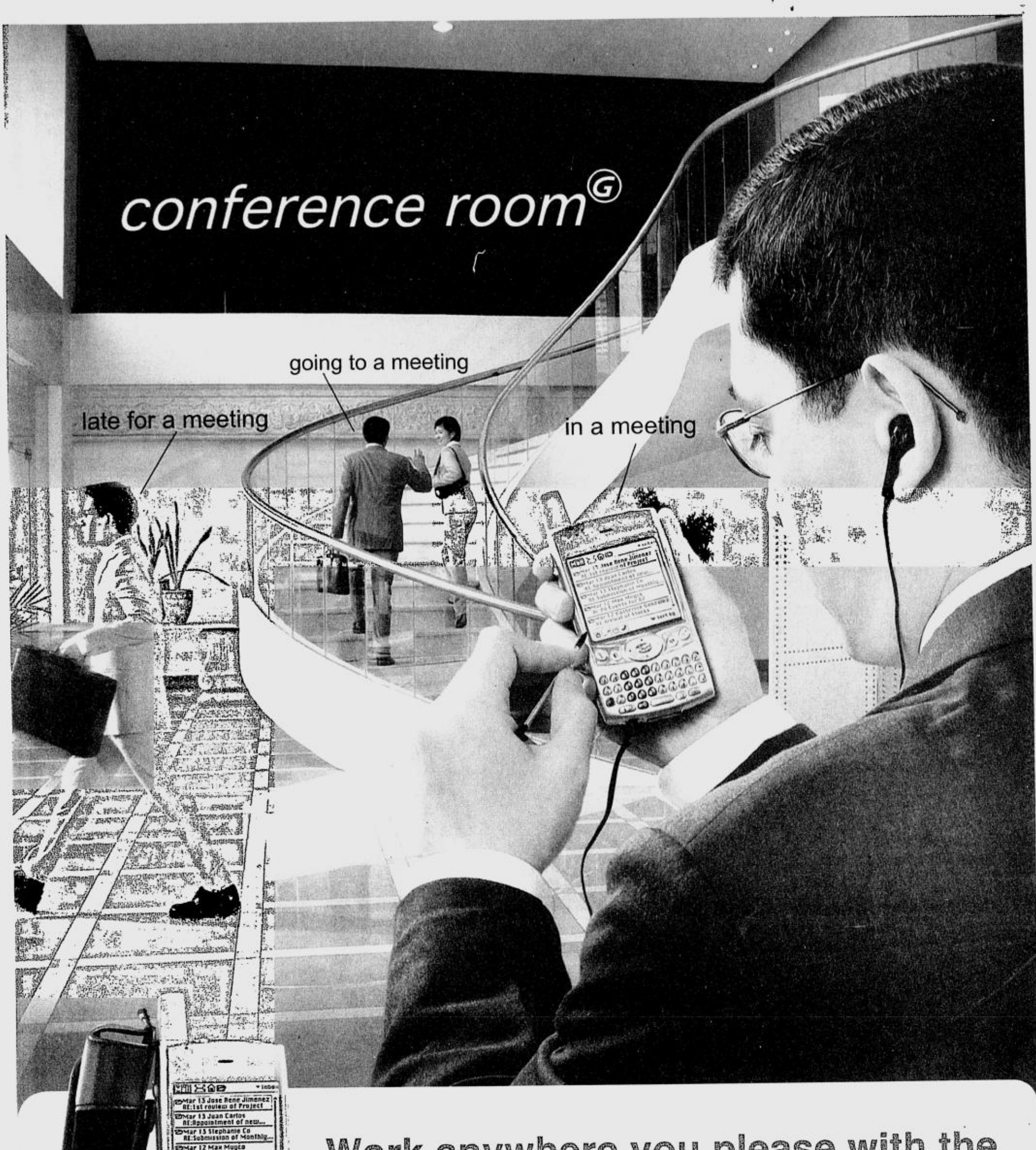

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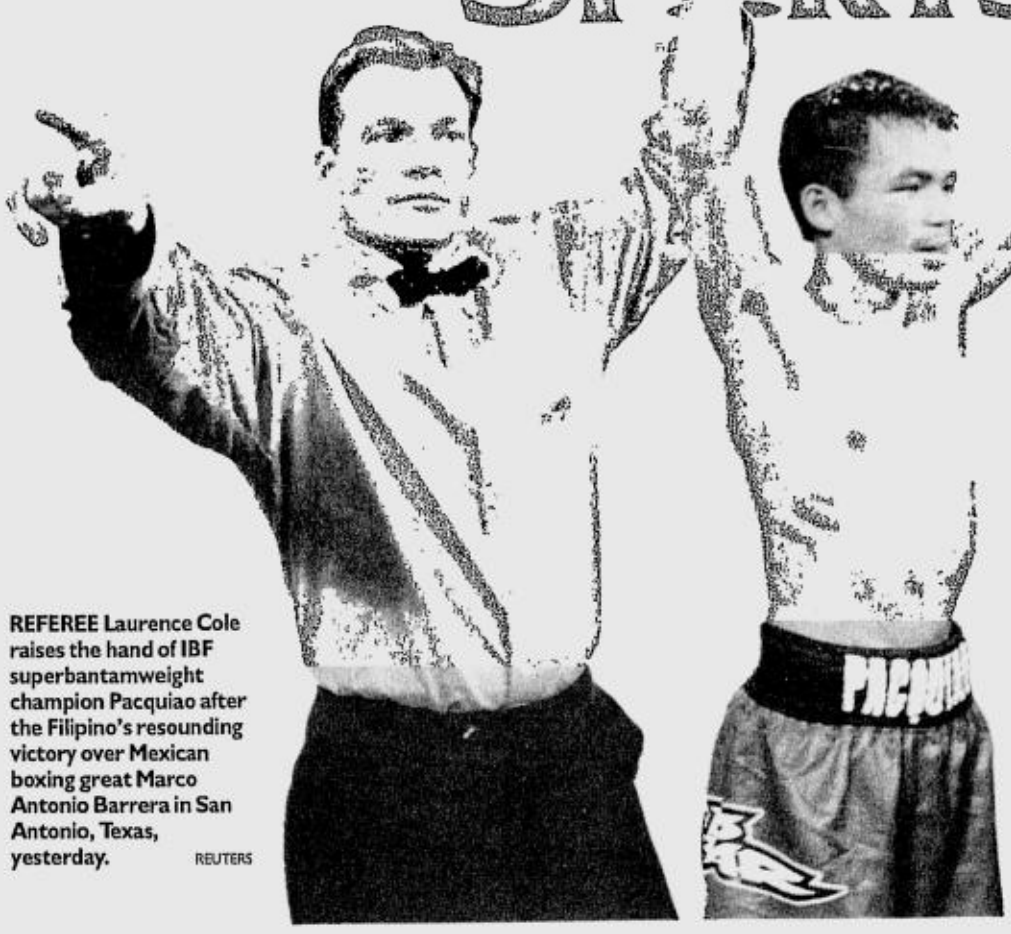
Pacquiao win may lift RP bets



REFEREE Laurence Cole raises the hand of IBF superbantamweight champion Pacquiao after the Filipino's resounding victory over Mexican boxing great Marco Antonio Barrera in San Antonio, Texas, yesterday. REUTERS

LET Manny Pacquiao be an inspiration for our athletes who will do battle for flag and country in the Vietnam SEA Games to go for the gold.

This was the significance President Macapagal-Arroyo attached to the explosive victory of IBF superbantam champion Manny Pacquiao over Mexican boxing great Marco Antonio Barrera in San Antonio, Texas, yesterday.

"May Manny's feat serve as an inspiration not only to our athletes, but to all of us Filipinos, that in the global community, we can do it," said Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain, quoting Ms Macapagal.

Buhain said that although Pacquiao pulled off the feat in a professional sport, the rousing win could rub off on and boost the morale of national athletes competing in the 22nd SEAG next month.

"The President is very happy about the success of Manny [Pacquiao] and on behalf of the President and her administration, we would like to congratulate our very own world champion for a job well done," said Buhain.

"We congratulate Manny for his great feat. *Buong sambayanang Pilipino ay taas noo sa buong mundo*," Buhain quoted the President as saying.

Pacquiao stopped Barrera, ranked No. 3 among the world's best pound-for-pound fighters, in the 11th of their 12-round non-title bout.

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Delasin pulls ahead by 1** /A27

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■ **African Cuppers pad lead** /A29

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Beermen top FedEx, gain semis

By June Navarro

THEY took San Miguel Beer lightly and paid dearly for it.

The FedEx Express played half-heartedly last night, allowing the Beermen to easily sweep their quarterfinal series with a 100-90 victory in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference.

The Express were so out of focus that it took only a second-quarter scoring rampage by the Beermen to seal the win before a wildly cheering crowd at the Araneta Coliseum.

Kwan Johnson paced the attack that saw the Beermen erect a 43-23 spread going to the halftime break.

Johnson got fire support from Nic Belasco, who had 13 rebounds to go with his 15 points.

The Beermen advanced to their first semifinal this season.

"I hope we could go all the way to the championship. Its been a long time since we played in the Finals," said SMB's Jong Uichico, coach of the winningest team in league history with 16 titles.

The Beermen will have to wait on Friday to find out their semifinal foe as Alaska downed Sta. Lucia Realty, 95-84, to tie their own series.

Meanwhile, Kerby Raymundo of Purefoods pulled off a monumental upset over Talk 'N Text's Asi Taulava, 13-7, to rule the Purefoods-Ginebra King of the Court one-on-one tournament for players 6-foot-4 and above. Raymundo took home the champion's purse of P150,000.

GAMES WEDNESDAY
(Philsports Arena)
5 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Red Bull
7:30 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Ginebra

Scores:

First Game

SAN MIGUEL 100—Johnson 28, Ildefonso 17, Belasco 15, Hontiveros 12, Racela 10, Pena 7, Victoria 6, Mente 5.

FEDEX 90—Shannon 36, Codiñera 17, Arboleda 11, Ferriols 8, Ritualo 8, Billones 6, Meneses 2, Yap 2, Ortiguerra 2, De Ocampo 2.

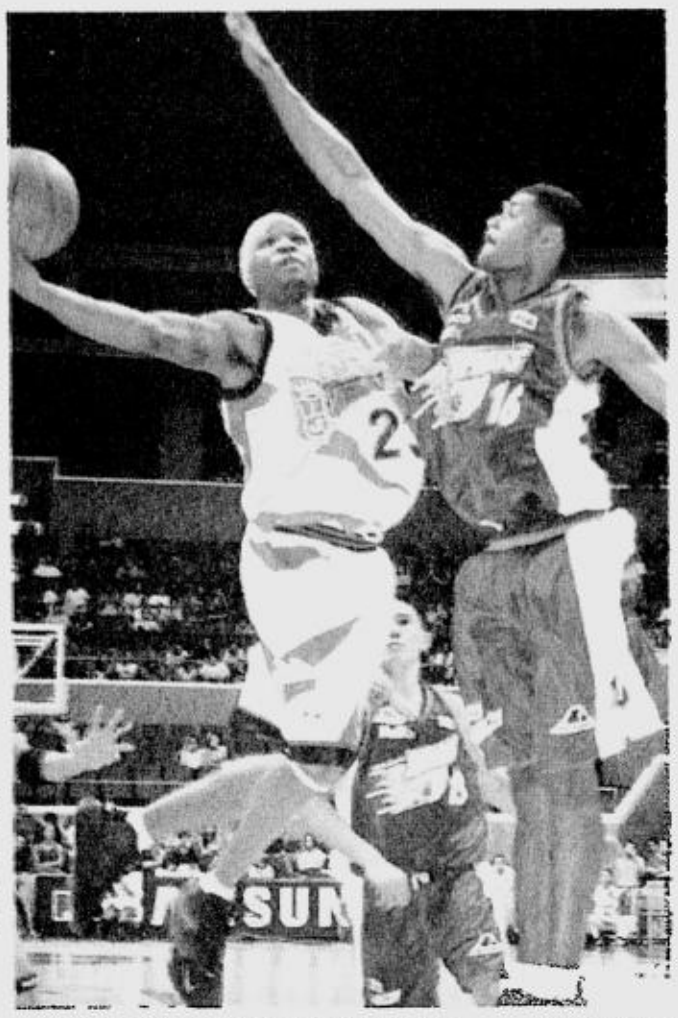
Quarters: 23-21, 53-40, 78-57, 100-90.

Second Game

ALASKA 95—Fontaine 28, Cablay 20, Cortez 12, Arigo 12, Camaso 7, Allado 6, Felhl 4, Dual 4, Noble 2, Ordonio 0

STA. LUCIA 84— Tutt 23, Espino 16, Mendoza 16, Duremdes 15, Aquino 8, Ong 3, Webb 2, Adriano 1, Santos 0.

Quarters: 25-19, 41-41, 63-63, 95-84



JOHNSON (left) puts up a shot against Shannon. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Blustar stops Montaña five; Nationals win

BLUSTAR Detergent, drawing inspired games from Lou Gatombato and former pro Jenkins Mesina, ended Montaña Pawnshop's two-game winning run with a 75-65 victory last night in the PBL Platinum Cup at the Pasay Sports Complex.

Mesina was on a zone as he drilled in a tournament-best 26 points on 10-of-24 shooting.

The Detergent Kings took control from the start and threatened to rip the game apart after posting a 64-48 lead midway in the final canto.

The Jewels refused to give up without a fight, unloading a bristling 11-0 run to reduce Blustar's lead to just 64-59.

In the first game, the Philippine team flexed just enough muscle in to score an easy 81-76 win over Sunkist-UST for its second straight win in its exhibition series with the PBL clubs.

STANDINGS	W	L
Montana	2	1
Blustar	2	2
Sunkist	1	1
Fash Liquid	1	2
ICTSI	1	2
Viva Mineral	0	2

GAMES TOMORROW
(Pasig Sports Center)
1:45 p.m.—Welcoat vs Fash Liquid
3:45 p.m.—Sunkist-UST vs Viva

Scores:

First Game

RP TEAM 81—Callimag 20, Gonzales 10, De Ocampo 9, Wilson 9, Yap 8, Madrid 7, Sotto 6, Cruz 4, Pingris 4, Artadi 2, Alvarez 2, San Diego 0.

SUNKIST 76—Compton 15, Villamin 10, Luanzon 8, Espiritu 8, De Guzman 8, Vizcarra 7, Mendoza 6, Manansala 6, Hubalde 3, Santos 2, Nanninga 2, Oreta 1, Pribhdas 0, Del Rosario 0.

Quarters: 21-13; 38-30; 59-44; 81-76

Second Game

BLUSTAR 75—Mesina 26, Gatumbato 9, Gamboa 8, Pascual 8, David 6, Prior 5, Victoria 4, Dela Cuesta 4, Junio 3, Almeda 2, Lopez 0.

MONTAÑA 65—David 17, Guerrero 14, Mendoza 11, Salvador 8, Sanlel 5, Alfad 3, Basco 2, Enrile 2, Raushmayer 2, Sayon 1, Manigo 0.

Quarters: 20-12; 36-28; 55-44; 75-65

Que, Zarate way behind champ Zhang

SHANGHAI—Chinese star Zhang Lian-wei claimed his first Volvo China Open crown Sunday to finally lay his hands on the title he covets the most.

The 38-year-old local hero fired a final round 72 at Shanghai Silport Golf Club for a long-awaited two-stroke victory over Thailand's Thaworn Wiratchant, who carded a fine 69.

Unho Park of Australia finished third, a further two strokes back, following a 74.

Zhang's winning total of 11-under-par 277 came with a handsome cheque of $90,000 , which raised his season's haul on the Asian PGA Tour to $245,569.

Filipinos Angelo Que and Danny Zarate, who tied for the first-round lead, finished way behind. Que totaled 288 after a 76, one stroke ahead of Zarate.

"I've dreamt of winning this for a long time," said Zhang, whose triumph was his second of the season and his career fifth on Tour.

"I've been trying to win this for the past nine years and I'm very, very happy now."

AFP

Pacquiao, wildfire and wonder of the world

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THE RINGSIDE broadcasters tried but failed to find an apt name for Manny Pacquiao as the fiery Filipino hero proceeded to demolish world boxing great Marco Antonio Barrera in San Antonio, Texas yesterday.

One of the two competent guys working the fight for television sounded on the verge of calling Pacquiao The Whirlwind.

Who knows? That errant tag could have stuck.

But, after Pacquiao poured on the pressure to shake, shame and subdue the puzzled Barrera, everybody also started to wonder what mean, magical stuff the Filipino was made up.

Locally, Pacquiao has been fondly dubbed The Destroyer.

There were those who tried to call him Pacman, a tribute to the fleeting manner he would devour his foes.

But Paquiao, in destroying world pound-for-pound boxing great Marco Antonio Barrera, has promptly installed himself as the newest wonder in the world of boxing.

He was a phantom of delight, a pleasure to behold as he swirled non-stop en route to a historic 11th round stoppage.

It was easy to liken him to a raging tornado.

Or he could be, more aptly, as fearful as the non-stop California wildfires that, incidentally, had sent Barrera packing from his original Big Bear training camp.

It's a pity how Barrera would realize, right inside the fight ring, that there was no escaping the raging killer flames.

***

Of course, fans and self-styled experts were one in saying they had never before seen a fighter as sharp, speedy and spellbinding as the 24-year-old former bakery worker from GenSan.

To repeat: a wonder of the world, no less.

The truth is that, prior to the fight, everybody had insisted Pacquiao would have to surpass himself in order to pass yesterday's test, the biggest of his career.

Remember how his American trainer, Freddie Roach, had suggested that Pacquiao, a legit junior featherweight, first settle down by doing at least two non-title fights in the featherweight proper before taking on Barrera?

Yes, in the beginning, it seemed that only Manny Pacquiao believed he could do the incredible feat with one big leap.

Asked by this reporter why he was in a hurry to clash with Barrera, Pacquiao had one philosophical reply: because the only way to go is up, up.

True enough, there were fears Pacquiao, in challenging Barrera's tyrannical dominance of the featherweight kingdom, could end up victim of a sordid mismatch.

The general feeling was that Barrera had all the spears, like innate skills, superb ringmanship, power, experience, great defense, to frustrate the young crown pretender.

***

And we could not blame local fans who swore that the most they had prayed for was that Pacquiao be able to finish with his pride intact.

Many Filipino fans were willing to submit to the overwhelming 4-1 odds.

Stunned by Barrera's advance billing, there were those who could only hope that Pacquiao make a good account of himself, finish with respect.

Yesterday marked one of the most stunning reversals in world boxing history.

"It turned out to be a mismatch in favor of Pacman," remarked respected Cebu boxing chronicler and international fight judge Salven Lagumbay. "Today is a shining moment for the Filipino race."

Indeed, Nov. 16, 2003 will be a red-letter day in the RP sports calendar, in the same manner that March 16, 1960, the day Flash Elorde stopped Harold Gomes at Araneta to win the world junior lightweight crown, is remembered.

It's too early to say if Pacquiao, despite having installed himself as the only Filipino to have won world boxing crowns in three separate divisions, would be greater than Elorde.

But, this early, there is a clamor for him to be named Filipino of the Year.

***

The Pacquiao story could be that of a restless, obscure crown pretender crashing into the exclusive confines of Barrera's Mexican kingdom to declare an open war for world recognition.

You see, experts were also of the opinion that Barrera was very capable of frustrating the crown try; and could in fact prevail with a masterful dominance of the young usurper.

The general belief was that, based on his killer skills, Pacquiao would crash the gate equipped only with an axe and a poor artillery.

Well, it was just too bad that Mexican believers at ringside ended up in tears as Pacquiao displayed hitherto unseen ring greatness and wizardry to take the crown pulling away.

The take-over was so final, irrevocable that it was a big puzzle if Barrera, a shaky shadow of his legendary self, would dare pursue a rematch option.

Maybe it was not part of the strategy. But all the glories in the Barrera kingdom had been instantly blown up by the raging wildfire from Asia.

De Torres sparks St. Mary's 6-gold haul

RECEHELLE de Torres threw the javelin to a new record of 36.48 meters to spearhead 13-time titlist Sisters of Mary's title bid at the start of the 2003 Milo Little Olympics at the Rizal Memorial track oval yesterday.

De Torres' classy show was part of the 6-gold binge of the Sta. Mesa athletes who also took home 7 silvers and 2 bronzes to pace the overall race in the high school division.

SOM-Boystown Cavite's Christian Mendoza duplicated De Torres' feat with a blistering 50.5-second victory in the 400m in the competition organized by CTW Group and supported by Cebu Pacific, PSC, POC and DepEd.

In grade school action, M. Estrella ES and Aurora Quezon ES bagged 3 golds each to crowd defending titlist Dr. A. Albert ES, winner of 2 golds, at the top.

Delasin pulls ahead by 1 in T of C

DELASIN props up a 68 with a birdie binge in the back nine. PDI PHOTO

MOBILE, Alabama—Filipina-American Dorothy Delasin shot a four-under-par 68 and took a one-stroke lead after three rounds of the LPGA Tournament of Champions on Saturday.

Delasin had a 54-hole total of 5-under-par 211, one stroke better than Korea's Han Hee-Won on the 6,253-yard, par-72 Magnolia Grove's Crossings Course.

Delasin, No. 33 on the money list, is looking for her first victory since the 2001 Samsung World Championship and is trying to climb in the top 30 on the list to qualify for next week's season-ending tournament in West Palm Beach, Florida.

With Cristie Kerr and Sophie Gustafson withdrawing in the first round, the $750,000 purse was adjusted Saturday and Delasin needs to finish fifth or better to bump Suzann Pettersen out of the final spot in the ADT field.

"It feels good to be in the lead," Delasin said. "I know I have a lot of great players behind me. I'm not going to look at the scoreboards tomorrow and just go out and play my game. That's all I know how to do."

Favorable pin placements allowed players to shoot lower scores after two difficult opening days.

The 25-year-old Han, shooting for her third win of the year, shot a 69, but a bogey on the 18th hole dropped her out of the lead with Delasin at 4-under 212.

Australians Karrie Webb and Rachel Teske, and Korea's Mi Hyun Kim are two shots off the pace. Webb and Teske each shot 67s, matching the low round of the tournament, while Kim had a 69. Grace Park also shot a 67 and is the only other player under par at 214.

Two-time defending champion Se Ri Pak bogeyed the last hole for a 67 that put her in a group of five players five shots back at 216.

"It's a pretty good leaderboard," said Webb, the 2000 winner of the tournament. "There are a lot of people within three or four shots that have a chance."

Delasin struggled on the front nine, saving par on the ninth hole to shoot an even-par 36. Her day turned around on the par-4 10th hole when she hit a wedge approach from 117 yards within 4 inches of the pin for a tap-in birdie.

"That was such relief for my brain," Delasin said. "I had been grinding so hard and it was nice to have a putt I could make with my eyes closed."

Delasin kept the momentum going with birdies at Nos. 11 and 12 for three in a row to join Han in a share for the lead.

The lead flip-flopped over the last three holes as Delasin birdied the par-5 16th and Han missed a 6-foot par putt on No. 18. *AP*

Indon lass bags ITF singles title

SEPTI Mende of Indonesia defeated qualifier Lyoo Mi of Korea, 6-4, 6-0, yesterday to win the singles title in the US$10,000 Union Cement-ITF Women's Circuit 2 at the Manila Polo Club.

It was the first-ever ITF women's title for the 17-year-old from Jakarta.

Mende, who will join first leg champion Sandy Gumulya in the Vietnam SEA Games next month, earned five WTA points and US$1,600 in this event sponsored by the ITF Grand Slam Fund, Wilson balls, Viva Mineral Water and Holiday Inn Manila Galleria.

Floro, Santos, Borromeo share honors

CEBU'S Andre Borromeo returned a low-net 67 to share honors with runaway overall winner Valeriano "Bones" Floro and runner-up Santiago Santos Jr. last Friday in the Mabuhay Miles Elite Invitational golf tournament at the Orchard Golf and Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Borromeo, general manager of Astron Gestus Inc., actually fired a three-over-par 75 at the tough Palmer course. He won by a shot over Santos, who finished second in low-gross with a 72.

Floro fired six birdies en route to a stunning 66 and a six-shot victory—his third in a row— in the tournament organized by Philippine Airlines for Elite and Premier Elite members of its Mabuhay Miles frequent flyer program, and backed by major sponsors Airbus and Globe Platinum Privilege Club.

Santos, president of Coastwise Lighterage Corp., topped Class A Koichi Kondo and Fujio Goto.

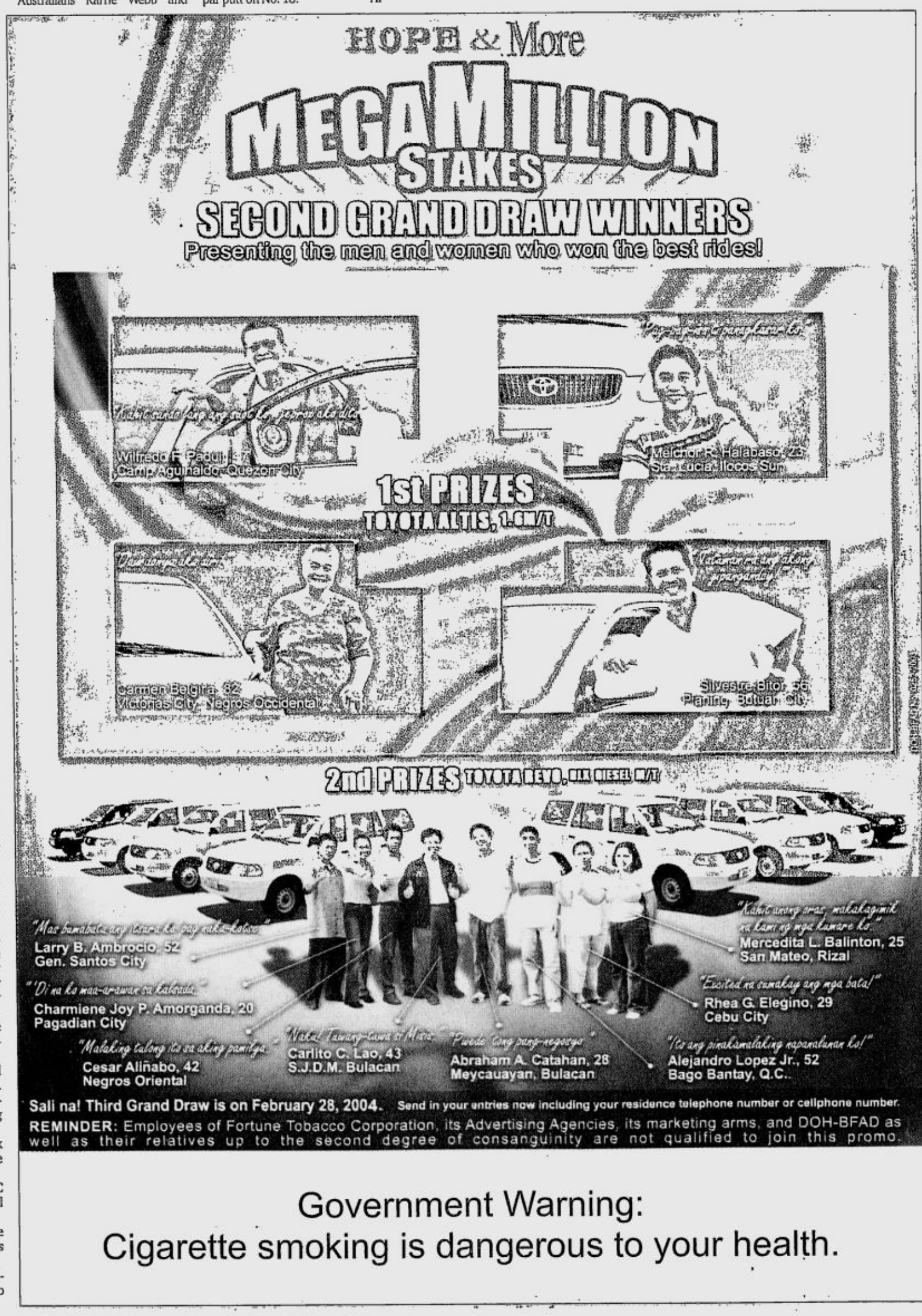
Corporate sponsors of the invitational included DHL Worldwide Express, HSBC and Petron Corp. Other backers were AAR International, NEC Philippines, Pacific Paint, Pagcor/Casino Filipino, Spring and Subic Bay Distribution.

Enrique Gana topped Class B via a countback over Masaaki Ema and Jefferson Huang. All three finished with identical net 71s.

Cargo executive Benigno Donsol ruled Class C via another countback over banker Federico Pascual and retailer Arthur Coronel.

Ferdinand Dimaisip, president of Prince Ace Corp., won Class D with a net 71 over securities broker Jerry Angping and Rafael Sison.

Lynley Tan of Omnicon Inc. won the ladies division with an aggregate 77, while Rene Garovillo ruled the guest division with a net 68.



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AGASSI blows his customary kiss to the crowd. REUTERS

MASTERS CUP FINAL

It's Agassi vs Federer

HOUSTON—Andre Agassi is one match from becoming the oldest winner of the ATP Tour's season-ending championship.

He faces a tough task, though: beating Roger Federer at the top of his powers.

Displaying the fluid game that brought him the Wimbledon title, Federer outclassed Andy Roddick, 7-6 (2), 6-2, Saturday to reach the Tennis Masters Cup final.

Agassi, who's 33, beat Rainer Schuettler, 5-7, 6-0, 6-4, in the other semifinal.

"A guy like Roger doesn't allow you to just lay off shots," Agassi said. "He has firepower from a lot of different points."

That was quite clear Saturday.

Federer flicked backhand passing shots at impossible angles, stretched into the doubles alley for volleys and chopped a brilliant lob that Roddick could only watch drop in while being broken in the next-to-last game.

"He was reading the game a lot faster than me," Roddick said. "The guy has more natural flair and talent for the game than most—than anybody, really."

By improving to 5-1 against US Open winner Roddick, Federer completed a hat-trick against the 2003 Grand Slam tournament champions. He beat Juan Carlos Ferrero (French Open) and Agassi (Australian Open) in round-robin action.

Federer will take home $1,520,000 if he beats Agassi again Sunday. He can also overtake Ferrero at No. 2 in the rankings and break a tie with Roddick for the tour lead by claiming his seventh title of 2003. Federer's 77 match wins are a season best.

"He's going to make you work," Federer said. "It's my last match of the year, so I'm going to give it everything I have."

At 22, Federer will have a decided "age advantage" in the best-of-five-set final against Agassi. *AP*

MIKE and Bob Bryan hold their trophies. AFP

Bryan twins top doubles

HOUSTON—Twins Bob and Mike Bryan of the United States beat Michael Llodra and Fabrice Santoro of France, 6-7 (6), 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (3), 6-4, on Saturday to win the season-ending Tennis Masters Cup doubles championship.

It's the fifth title of the year for the Bryans, who won their first Grand Slam title at the French Open. They already were assured of finishing 2003 as the No. 1-ranked doubles team, the first brothers to do so. *AP*

NBA ROUNDUP

Spurs trim Wizards; Cavs subdue Sixers

WASHINGTON—Malik Rose scored 23 points, Tim Duncan had 17, and the San Antonio Spurs overcame a lethargic start at the end of a road trip to beat the Washington Wizards, 95-71, Saturday night.

Duncan and the Spurs were sloppy early on, but San Antonio's defense shut down Washington over the final three quarters to make the game a rout.

Duncan, who committed four turnovers in the first quarter, added 13 rebounds for the Spurs, who went 2-1 on their swing through New Jersey, Philadelphia and Washington. Rose was 10-for-15 from the field, scoring 15 points in the second half.

Gilbert Arenas scored 14 points on 4-for-19 shooting to lead the Wizards, who have lost four straight.

In New York, Jermaine O'Neal put back a miss with three seconds left and Reggie Miller looked like his old self at Madison Square Garden, scoring a season-high 31 points in the Indiana Pacers' 95-94 win over the New York Knicks.

O'Neal made up for an otherwise poor game by grabbing Anthony Johnson's missed 3-pointer and hitting a short jumper over Dikembe Mutombo for the win.

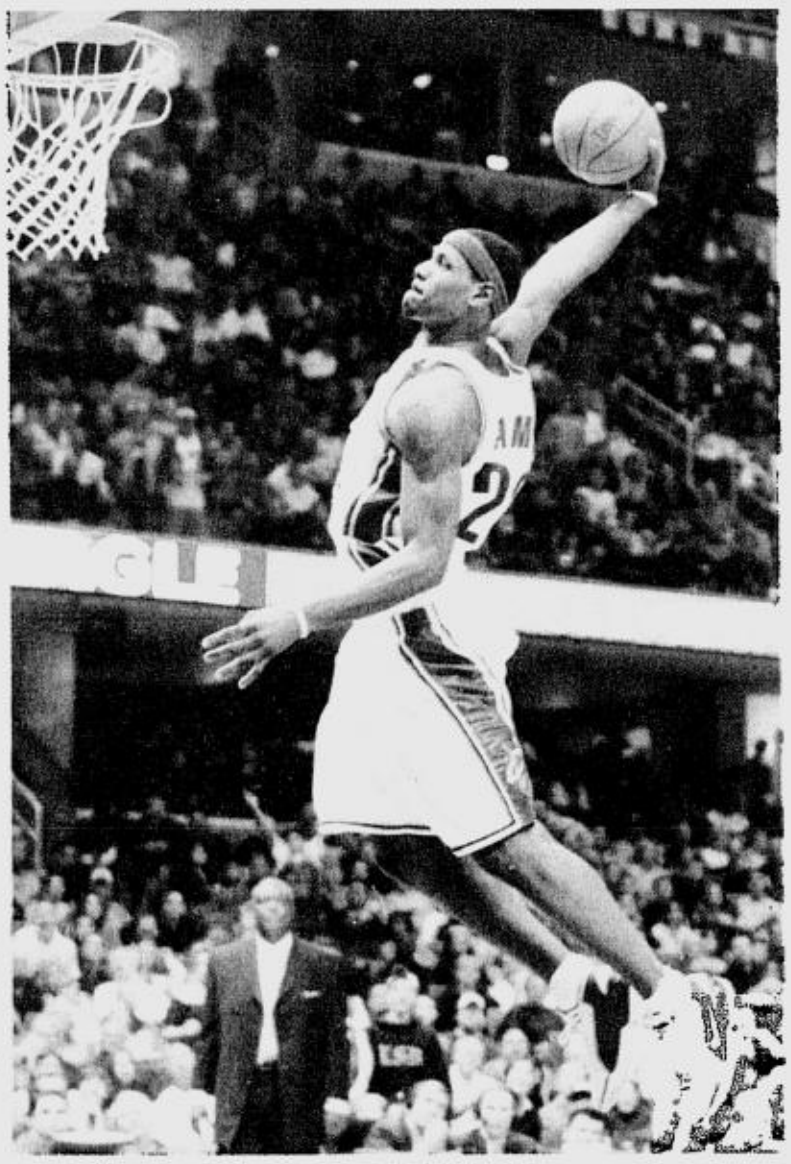
Miller, who didn't have a 30-point game last season, scored 18 points in the first half and made three 3-pointers in the fourth quarter as the Pacers rebounded from a dreadful third quarter to hand the Knicks their fourth straight loss.

In Cleveland, Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored 28 points and had a key putback, assist and block in overtime as the Cavaliers snapped a 16-game losing streak against Philadelphia with a 91-88 overtime win.

Rookie LeBron James had 22 points, eight assists, five rebounds and a huge block with 11 seconds left in overtime. The 7-foot-3 Ilgauskas added eight rebounds and a career-high seven assists for the Cavs, who hadn't beaten the Sixers since April 2, 1999 at Philadelphia.

The Sixers played without their starting frontcourt for the second straight game as Derrick Coleman, Glenn Robinson and Kenny Thomas all sat out with injuries. Allen Iverson, the NBA's leading scorer, had 19 points on 8-of-29 shooting. *AP*

Complete results:
New Jersey 100, Atlanta 85; San Antonio 95, Washington 71; Cleveland 91, Philadelphia 88 (OT); Indiana 95, New York 94; Memphis 108, Dallas 101 (OT); New Orleans 101, Portland 79; Seattle 98, Chicago 90; Milwaukee 100, Utah 95; Detroit 100, Phoenix 91; LA Clippers 95, Orlando 92.



JAMES goes up for a dunk against the Philadelphia 76ers. AP

Alemu stuns Olympic champion

TOKYO—Ethiopia's Elfenesh Alemu blew past Sydney Olympic gold medalist Naoko Takahashi on Sunday to win the Tokyo International Women's Marathon.

Alemu crossed the finish line at Tokyo's National Stadium with an unofficial time of 2 hours, 24 minutes and 47 seconds, a full 2 minutes and 33 seconds ahead of Takahashi, who finished second.

"It was a tough race," said Alemu. "We both ran a good race, the first half was very fast but the hill at the end made it tough."

The 28-year-old Alemu, who finished fourth here last year, overtook Takahashi at the 39-km (24-mile) mark and never looked back. Takahashi saw her six-race winning streak dating back to 1998 end.

"I started to feel it in the legs around the 28-km mark," said Takahashi, who led for much of the race. "The uphill route at the end of the race made it very tough."

It was Takahashi's first race since the Berlin Marathon in September of last year and she didn't look to be in top form near the end of Sunday's race, which served as a qualifier for the Athens Olympics for Japanese runners.

Takahashi was running in her first marathon on home soil since the 2000 Nagoya International Women's Marathon. *AP*

Beckhams deny marriage is rocky

LONDON—Soccer star David Beckham and his wife on Saturday denied new tabloid allegations that their marriage is strained.

A spokesperson for the couple said the story, in early editions of the Sunday Mirror, was "rubbish" and that they've got their lawyer looking at it with a view to possible legal action. She spoke with customary anonymity.

The Sunday Mirror reported that Victoria Beckham had threatened to walk out on her marriage unless her husband moves back to Britain from Spain, where he plays for Real Madrid. The newspaper said a trial separation had been discussed. The couple has two young sons.

The Sunday Mirror report is not the first newspaper report of trouble in the 4-year-old marriage.

In late September, the pair issued a statement rebutting a report in the News of the World tabloid.

"Contrary to newspaper reports, our marriage is not in crisis," they said in a statement issued at the time by their management company, Outside Organization. *AP*

Acosta, Anatacio rule Beam-Zest-O race

JONATHAN Acosta and Mayeth Anatacio topped the Beam-Zest-O Patakbong Pinoy's third leg that started and ended last Sunday at the Rizal Triangle Park in Olongapo City.

Acosta timed 19 minutes and 15.25 seconds to grab the P3,000 cash prize against rivals Ameah Jedidiah Liup and Rodel Antiquiao in this event organized by the Media Runners and Sports Promotions in coordination with the Olongapo City government headed by Mayor Kate Gordon.

For placing second and third, respectively, Liup and Antiquiao took home cash prizes of P2,000 and P1,000. Liup clocked 19:40, two seconds in front of Antiquiao.

Anatacio timed 28:12.60 to win the P3,000 top purse in the women's race, with Aljie Paja second in 30:08.4 and Jazie Cadaing third in 31:10.4. Paja pocketed P2,000 while Cadaing won P1,000.

The event was held exclusively for Olongapo City residents and students.

Hat-trick

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

IN THE eighth edition of the Marho Breeders' Cup on Sunday, Nov. 23, at the Santa Ana Park, champion racehorse Wind Blown is expected to pick up the winner's check and bring home the imposing silver cup mainly because the 7-year-old galloper has too much speed and skill in the premier Classic race which covers 2,050 meters.

"*Matatalo lamang si* Wind Blown *kung siya ay mapipilay* (Wind Blown will only lose if he is injured)," once said respected sports analyst Andy Jao of the most dominant horse in contemporary Philippine horseracing history. Most recently, Wind Blown won two comeback races at Santa Ana, bouncing back in style after an absence of six months.

Owned by much-admired Hermie Esguerra, Wind Blown (Hazm-Wind in My Hair) won his first comeback race last Oct. 26 in the Saddle & Clubs Special Race under the brilliant handling of star jockey Jeffril Zarate. Then on Nov. 9, the heavily favored Wind Blown, with Zarate again in the stirrups, notched victory No. 2 in the Philtobo-Mitra Cup.

Wind Blown will be aiming for a hat-trick in this Sunday's keenly awaited Marho Breeders' Cup before he is retired to stud. And because Wind Blown is in top shape, his legions of loyal followers are optimistic this massive horse from the powerhouse Esguerra Stable will win again and boost his chances of garnering a third straight "Horse of the Year" award, saying Wind Blown is one of a kind not only because of his track record but also because of his lasting impact on sports.

Named top horse in 2001 and 2002, Wind Blown won last year's Marho Breeders' Cup despite losing a shoe in the muddy track of the rain-soaked Santa Ana Park to complete a stirring back-to-back triumph in the Classic. Early this month, Wind Blown injured his foot after stepping on a nail while training at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite, original venue of the Philtobo-Mitra Cup, forcing Esguerra to scratch him from further participation at the SLLP.

The Marho Breeders' Cup is hosted annually by the Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners. Patterned after the famous Breeders' Cup of the United States, the Philippine version was conceived and organized by sportsman Aristeo "Putch" Puyat and supported by his friends and respected horseracing personalities headed by Marho chair Sandy Javier. Aimed at promoting the sport and improving the breed of local horses, as well as elevating the standards of the Philippine horseracing industry, the Marho Breeders' Cup was launched on Nov. 16, 1996, with longshots Alynative and El Señor ruling the Distaff Mile and Colt Mile, respectively, each pocketing a record purse of P1 million.

This year's weeklong Marho Breeders' Cup festival starts tomorrow and ends on Sunday.

There will be five championship races which offer a guaranteed pot of more than P7 million. The championship races are the Juvenile Colts, Juvenile Fillies, the 3-year-old colts, the 3-year-old fillies and the Classic for older horses. A sixth championship, the Sprint, will also beef up the racing calendar on Sunday.

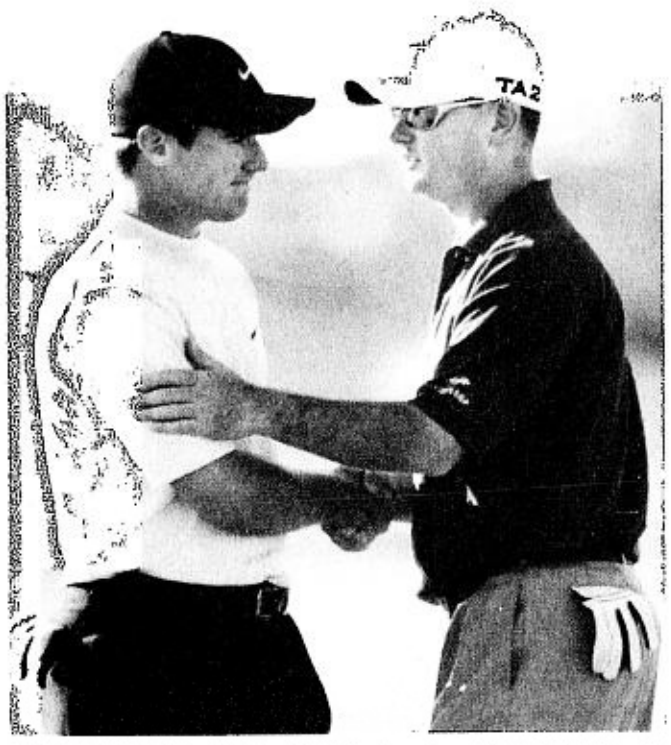
The fact that the Marho Breeders' Cup is now on its eighth year is proof that it is here to stay even though hosting the event, at this time when everyone is hurting, is more of a challenge because the risk is greater than usual. "But Marho is truly proud to push through with this noble effort because more than the series of big money races and exciting rivalries, this annual Breeders' Cup embodies Marho's commitment to provide incentives for the breeding of quality home-grown horses," said Puyat. Besides, the robust gross sales for the week will not only benefit the horseracing industry but the government as well from the taxes derived from the usual record sales. Last year, the Marho Breeders' Cup grossed a record five-day total of more than P154 million at the Santa Ana Park. It is expected to top the gate receipts this year.

What makes the Marho Breeders' Cup click? Aside from its excellent program featuring a quality field led by super horse Wind Blown, members of the organizing Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners, guys with the zeal and grit and heart for sports, are hellbent on getting something done when everyone thinks they can't. And last, but not the least, the Marho Breeders' Cup clicks because of the continued patronage and confidence of the racing public.

***

ATENEO HALL OF FAME. The Ateneo de Manila University will honor its outstanding sports personalities on Nov. 22, with former basketball star Mario Ballesteros among the honorees.

According to former PCSO general manager Dr. Fernando Carrascoso, an active member of Ateneo High School Class '52, Ballesteros will be cited for his contribution to Philippine basketball when he shone brightly in the varsity and commercial leagues such as the NCAA and the defunct Micaa. "It's our own little way of paying tribute to a great player like Mario," said Carrascoso. "He is truly deserving of the honor."



IMMELMAN (left) and Sabbatini shake hands on the 18th green. AFP

African Cuppers extend lead to 7

KIAWAH ISLAND, South Carolina—South Africa's Trevor Immelman and Rory Sabbatini birdied six of their first seven holes Saturday and finished with a 9-under-par 63 to take a seven-stroke lead heading into the final round of the World Cup.

The South Africans, who led by two strokes going into Saturday's best-ball round, ended the day at 14-under in the World Golf Championships event featuring two-man teams from 23 nations.

"We played the front nine as good as you can play it," Immelman said. "It was just a real solid day's golf."

Americans Jim Furyk and Justin Leonard were tied for second at 7-under with France's Thomas Levet and Raphael Jacquelin. Both teams shot 4-under-par 68s on the Ocean Course.

Sunday's final round is an alternate stroke format.

"I'd take 18 pars right now and run," Sabbatini said. "The course is a tough golf course. There's nothing easy to it. Even when there is not a breath of wind, you would still find difficulty out there."

Furyk said he and Leonard couldn't find a rhythm.

"We got off to a relatively decent start," Furyk said. "We were 3-under through six, actually in pretty decent shape and playing well and hitting good shots and kind of fizzled out."

The Americans had five birdies and a bogey and couldn't make up any ground on the leaders, who played in their foursome. *AP*

Goosen downs Annika in Skins

SINGAPORE—South Africa's Retief Goosen, the former US Open champion, defeated women's World No. 1 Annika Sorenstam Sunday to win the Tiger Skins exhibition event.

Goosen, the men's World No. 7, finished with a two-day total of US$130,000 on the rain-soaked 6,383-meter (yards) par-72 Garden layout at the Tanah Merah Country Club.

Goosen captured 10 skins worth US$110,000 when he birdied the par-five 515-meter (563-yard) 15th hole after his wedge shot spun back to rest a meter (yard) from the cup, and took home another US$15,000 on the par-four 373m (404-yard) 17th. He had won US$5,000 on Saturday.

Sorenstam took one skin Sunday—on the 328-meter (359-yard) 16th after a rain delay—for a two-day total of $35,000 and five skins. *AP*

Orchard hosts Founders Invt'l

THE PALMER Course at The Orchard Golf and Country Club, regaining its old acclaim after being re-greened to the TifEagle breed, will test the putting skills of the record field during the seventh edition of the Founders Golf Invitational blasting off this Thursday, Nov. 20.

Now boasting one of the best greens among the country's all-weather courses, the Palmer and the adjacent Player course will be tackled by the biggest ever cast of 300 member-guest teams in the 36-hole tourney spread out over three days ending on Saturday, Nov. 22.

It was at the Palmer Course where the Johnnie Walker Classic was held in 1995 with American Fred Couples emerging as champion. Its old greens, however, had to give way to a multimillion renovation work, the rave reviews it has been getting of late a proof to its success.

Major sponsors of the event are Globe Telecom, Ford Alabang and Sta. Lucia Realty Dev't. Fedex, Sta. Elena Properties, The Turf Co., Concepcion Carrier Airconditioning, Dynamic Sports and Taylor Made-Adidas are special sponsors.

Hole sponsors are The Bellevue Manila, Caltex Phils, Cebu Pacific, China Airlines, Chinatrust, Clark Parnham, Design Packaging Industries, Equitable Card Center, Exotic Gardens, Gainer's Marketing, Give A Life Foundation, Golf Library, HBW Enterprise Company, Industrial Waste Systems Inc., Jomon Carpets, Kolin Phils., Las Piñas Golfers, Maisog Engineering, Mayor Joey Marquez, Mayor Homer Saquilayan, RFM Corporation, Rodenstock Eyewear, Rudy Project Phils., Sanitary Care Products Asia, Schering Plough Corp. and Trans Global Consolidators, Inc.

Participants are requested to call the Orchard at 843-8344 for tee-times and other tournament details. There will be separate bag drops, registration, cart staging areas and parking lots for the Palmer and Player courses.

'Bakbakan' derby unfolds at Big Dome today

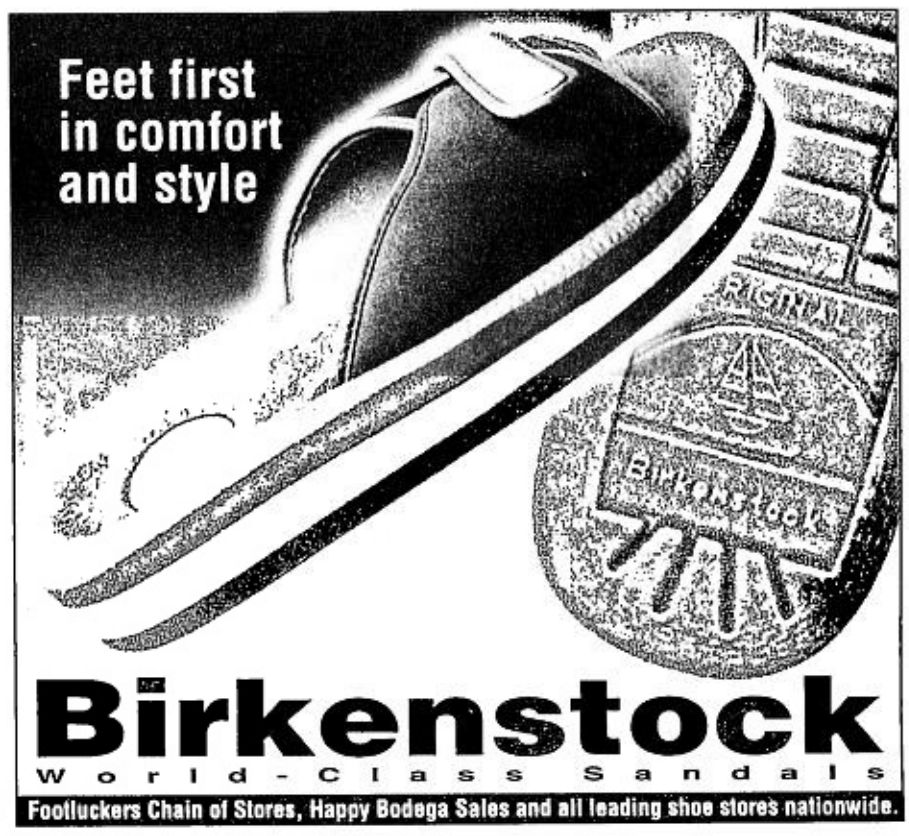
LEADING cockfighting groups vie for supremacy starting today when the "Bakbakan 2003 National 8-Stag Derby" gets under way at the Araneta Coliseum.

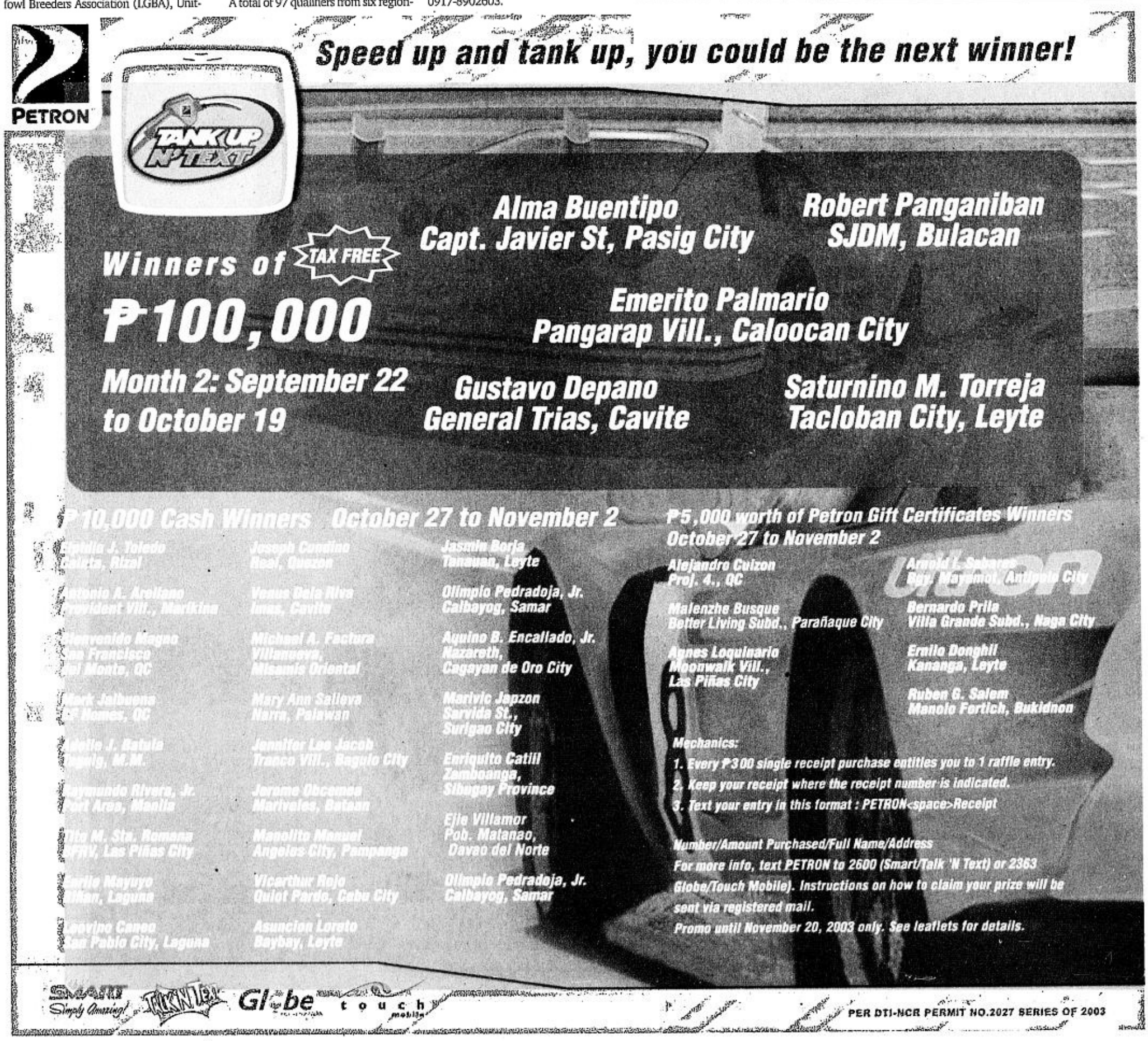
Luzon-based breeders Luzon Gamefowl Breeders Association (LGBA), United Ilocandia Gamefowl Breeders (UNIGBA), Cagayan Valley Gamefowl Breeders (CVGBA), Bicol Gamefowl Breeders Ass'n, (BIGBA) and the Batangas Breeders Club head the huge field as they try advance to the semifinals.

A total of 97 qualifiers from six regional eliminations have so far entered the semifinals slated on Nov. 22 and 24. The championship is set for Nov. 26.

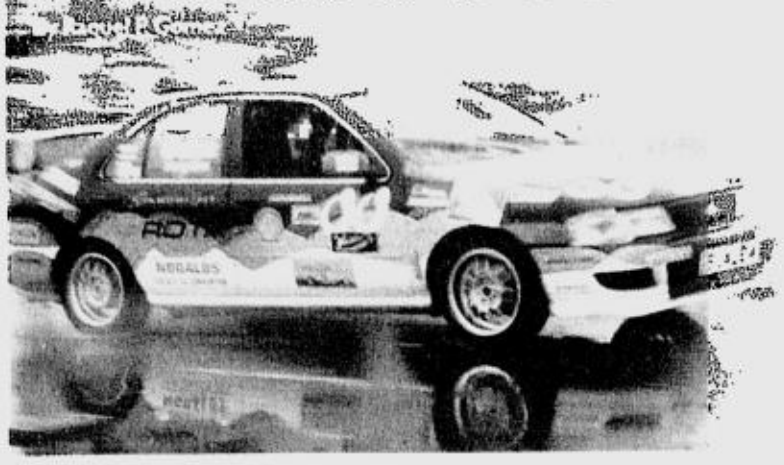
The derby is hosted by the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders

For more details, call Boy Diaz at 0917-8902603.





All roads lead to Subic, the Mecca of Motorsports



The Philippine Motorsport Festival gathers in one venue different racing disciplines on land, air and sea, and more than 2,000 participants and thousands of spectators.

Philippine MOTORSPORTS Festival 2003

'IF you build it, they will come.'

This famous line from a movie can best describe the inspiration behind the establishment of the Philippine Motorsport Festival, the biggest racing event of the year happening in Subic on Nov. 22 and 23.

The Philippine Motorsports Festival, put up by racer Georges Ramirez with other motorsports enthusiasts in 1999, gathers in one venue different racing disciplines on land, air and sea, and more than 2,000 participants and thousands of spectators.

For two days Subic will be transformed into a Mecca of motor sports activities. The Subic International Raceway will be the venue of different motor sport races such as the Goodyear Enduro Race, Honda Run What You Brung Race, Miata Cup, Vintage Sprint Race, Ferrari Race, and the Run What You Brung. More than a thousand organizations of scooters and motorcycle clubs will also participate, turning the roads of Subic into a spectacular showcase of vehicles of every kind and make.

Subic's airspace and sea territories as well as the mountainous terrain will also see some raging action. Windsurfing, sailing and powerboats and jetski races, windshear weekend regatta, and a fluvial parade are activities that will happen at the Subic Bay.

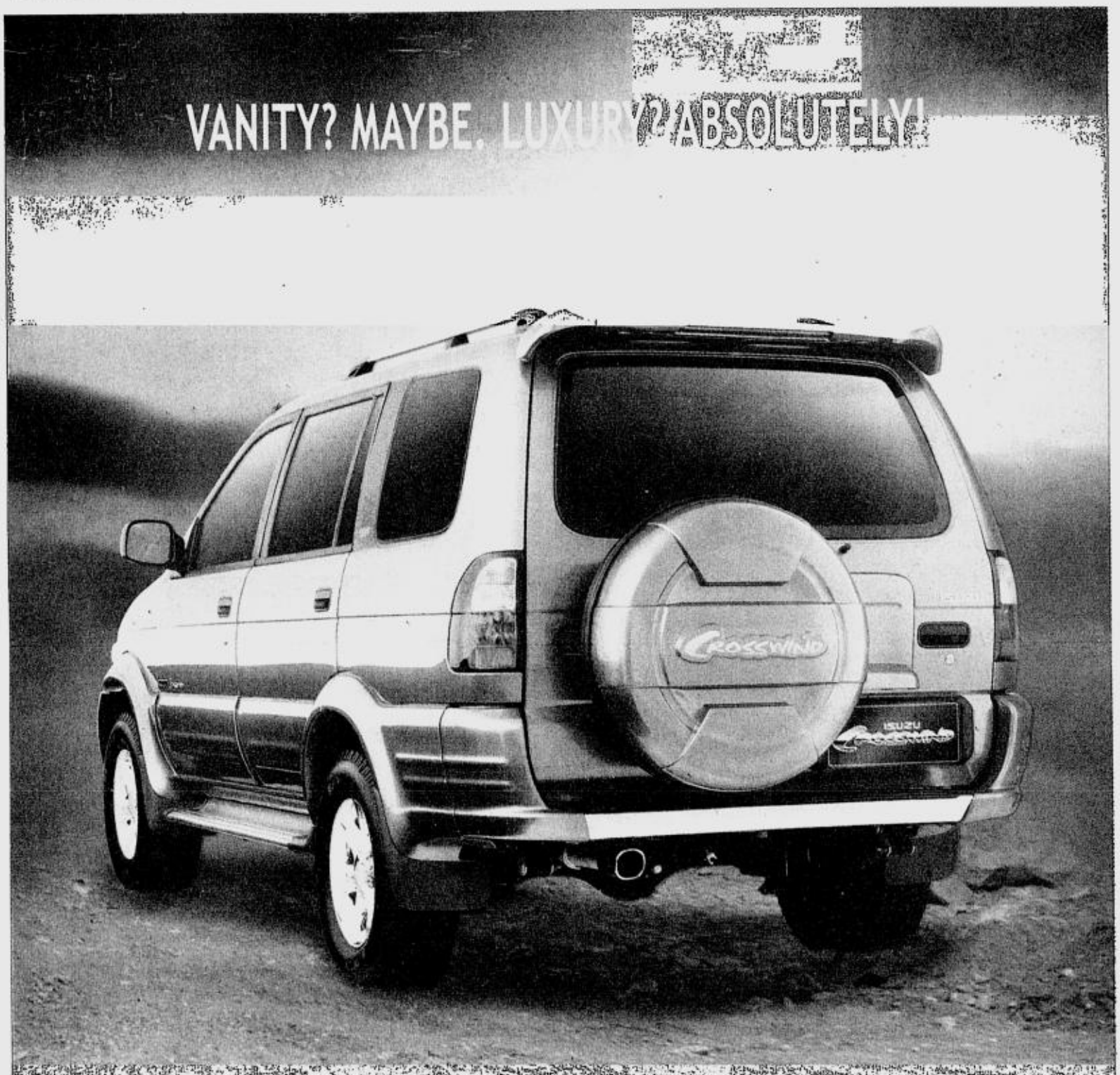
Subic's airfield will literally fly with colors as air shows that include private aircrafts, choppers and ultralight planes parade on the skies.

Four years ago, Ramirez saw the potential of Subic to host a big motor sports festival that will embrace almost all motor sport activities held in the country. He said motor races then had been done sporadically by different groups at different times of the year. All he had to do was start the motor sports festival. And once a Motorsports Festival was established everyone would definitely come and gather.

"After having organized almost every kind of circuit race possible, I thought, why not bring all motorsport activities together in one venue and have a weekend of fun? There are so many things to do in Subic. It has a race track, an airport, and a seaport."

Three successful Motorsports Festivals

ROAD/ A31



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Subic Bay KARAKOA FESTIVAL

Experience Subic's Karakoa Festival

LEGEND has it that the greatest warship that prowled the South Seas was "Karakoa." It lorded over the vast seas and the islands for the trade, triumphed over the enemies and sailed through the storms.

In honor of this mighty old ship, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority has stirred up a festival called "Karakoa" to represent Subic Bay as a harbor and marine center as well as commerce and trade center.

Subic Bay has been the home of the mightiest naval powers in our history. Its natural geography lured the Spanish to base its Armada on its harbor. The United States also saw Subic Bay's good naval capacity, which is why they turned the place into a naval base.

Today, Subic is a very unique tourist destination as it offers a variety of activities that can be done all in close proximity of each other. Enjoy activities on land, air and sea—whether they'd be powered by an engine, wind, animal or human. Action and relaxation activities all happen in Subic Bay.

The Karakoa Festival is a big party involving street parades, fluvial parades, and concert by the Boardwalk. Saturday night at the Boardwalk will be the site where all the different festival events and groups congregate to watch the parade. The fluvial parade will end at the Boardwalk and meet up with the revelers.

The Karakoa Festival really all started with the sea and to signify the sea, party hosts will start the "water celebration hour" with the first spraying of water on everyone. And from there, the water throwing party starts, the revelers can throw water at the host and at each other. So bring your water gun and party on.

A great history, a great place, a great party and a great start for an annual tradition—the Subic Karakoa Festival.

All roads lead to Subic, the Mecca of Motorsports

From page A30

have been held in Subic. According to Ramirez the number of participants and the disciplines involved grow every year. "That's why now, the event just exploded into something much bigger and we're just part of it," said Ramirez.

The Philippine Motorsports Festival is now part of the "Karakoa Festival" of Subic, the first festival that sprang from this former US bases. Some highlights of the Karakoa festival, organized by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, are street parades, parties and food festival at the Boardwalk.

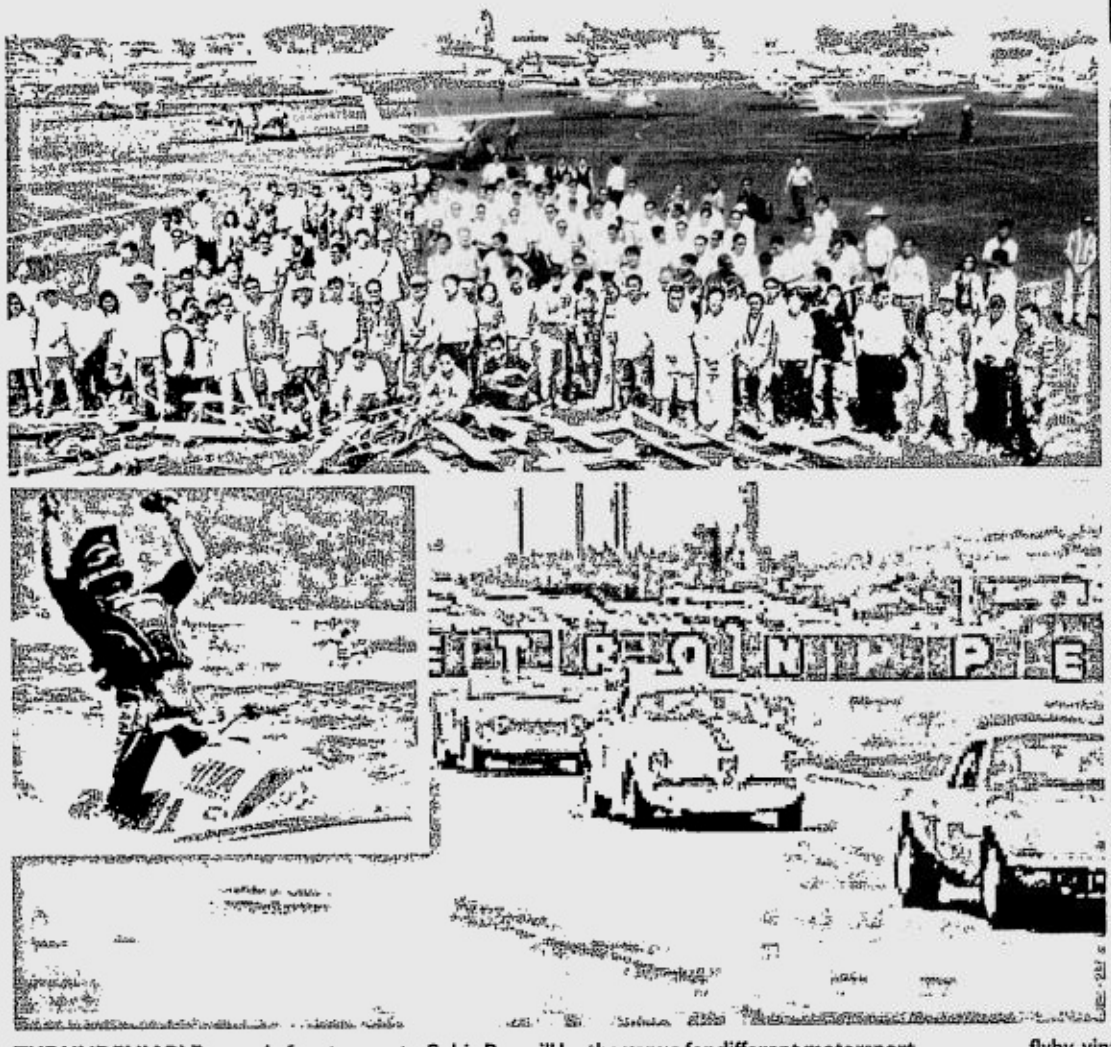
"We are glad to be part of the Karakoa Festival," said Ramirez. "SBMA's support gives the motorsports festival a new and much larger dimension because there are so many activities available and they're of huge interest for everyone."

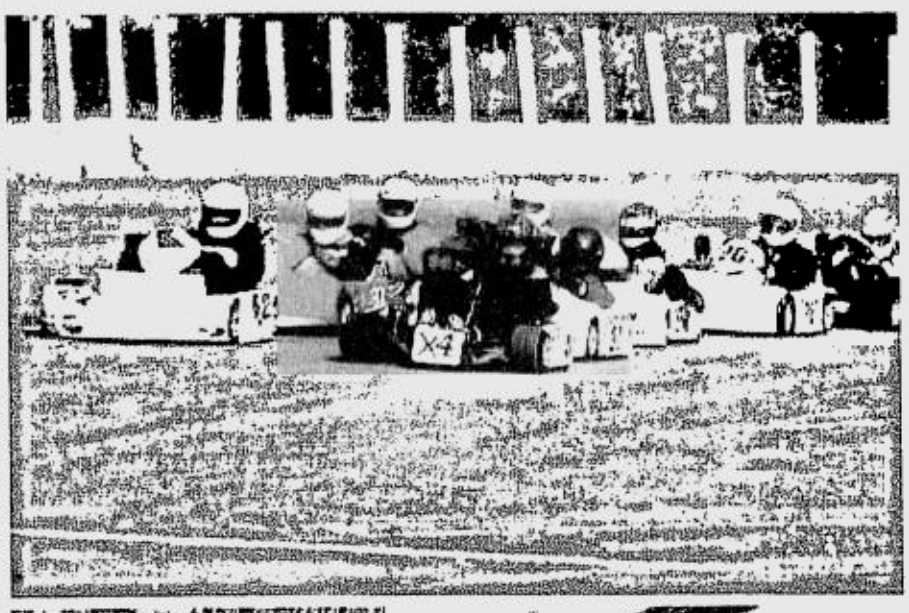
Ramirez, who comes from a family who loves to race (his father is racing legend Pocholo Ramirez), said motorsports or racing has always that undeniable appeal to people of all walks of life.

"In the olden days before there were cars, people loved their horses. And when the cars came about, they ended up loving their cars and that's the nature of it."

He said the motorsports festival allows for participants the great freedom of the road and enjoyment of cars, which people can't really do in traffic filled Manila.

"We are promoting motor racing. The idea is don't do your racing on the street, do it on the track. If you're a driver and you have the urge to race, you can go to Subic Motorsports Festival and do it there."





THE UNDENIABLE appeal of motorsports: Subic Bay will be the venue for different motorsport disciplines and other racing disciplines such as the Enduro Race, Go-Kart Race, planes and ultralights flyby, vintage sprint race, motorcycle and scooter parade, jetski race and many more. The Philippine Motorsports Festival is now part of the Karakoa Festival of Subic

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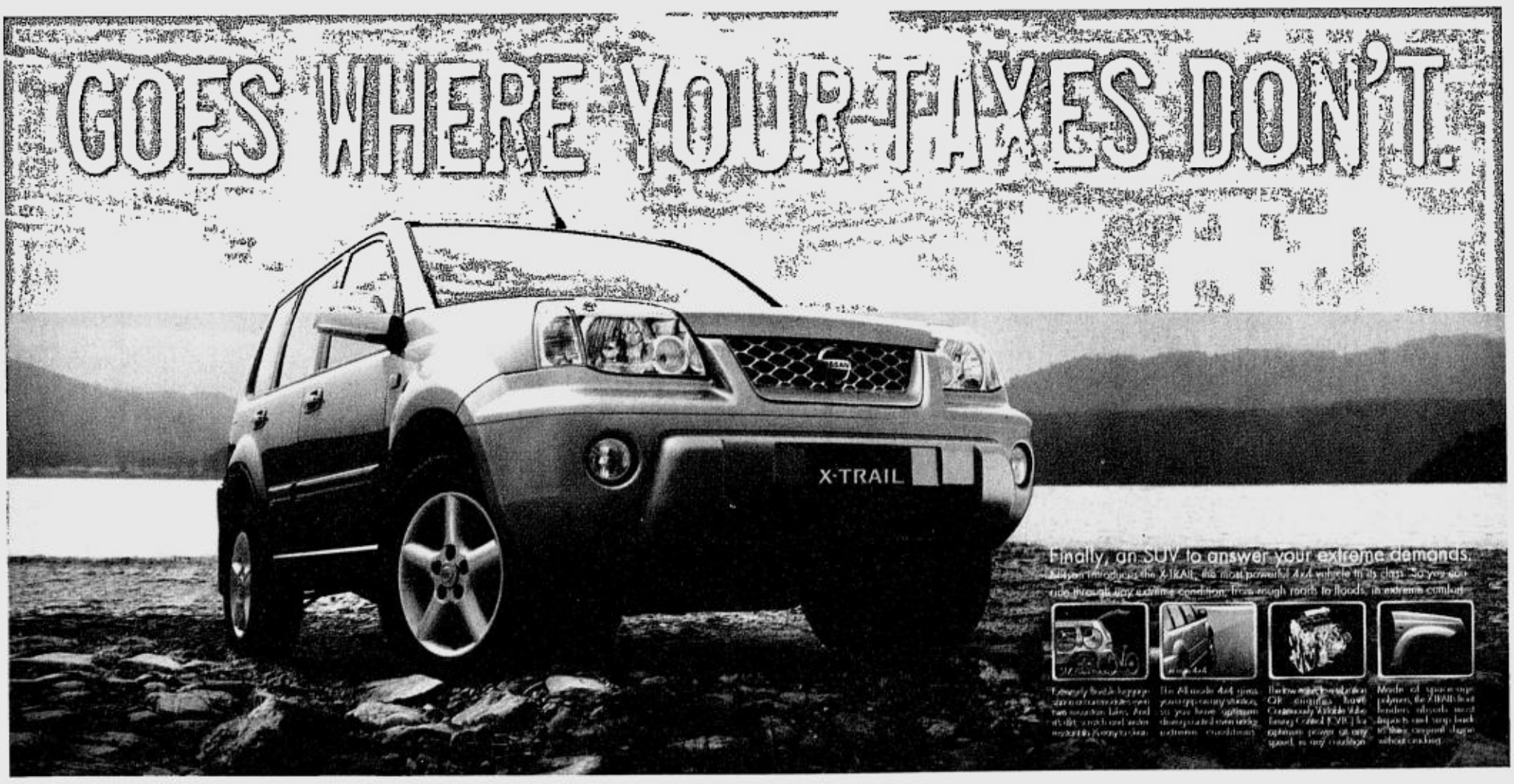

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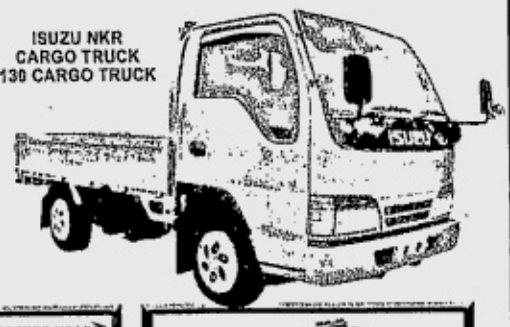

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SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Restolax/Mail & More-MayniLA debuted on a winning note as it edged Sulpicio Lines-Pampanga, 80-76, Saturday in the 2003 Panasonic-National Basketball League Regional Cup tournament at the Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center here.

Ernani Epondulan powered MayniLA to the victory by drilling in 27 of his 31 points in the second half.

In the other match, the Ilocos Sur Snipers whipped defending champion Compak Shineway-Ozamiz, 85-74, to make it three in a row and regain solo leadership in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, BJ Star Logistics, Sulpicio Lines, Molten and Nature's Spring.

Billy Bansil and Marlon Tadeo lifted the Raging Bulls to a 40-36 lead at halftime but Epondulan scattered 14 points in the third quarter to shove the Manilans ahead, 60-57.

Scores:

First Game:

ILOCOS SUR 85—Machica 25, Evans 18, Barbosa 15, A. Reyes 8, Agapito 7, Ferreria 6, Butel 4, Sillona 2, Tadeo 0.

OZAMIZ 74—Rodriguez 26, Echavez 9, De Jesus 9, Guerrero 8, Ferraren 7, Cabrera 5, Sampilo 4, Libalog 3, Booker 2, Cabigkis 1, Flores 0, Alminario 0.

Quarters: 25-13, 40-41, 59-52, 85-74.

Second Game:

MAYNILA 80—Epondulan 31, Serrano 14, Sanz 11, Mallari 5, Ricafuente 5, Buendia 4, Corbin 4, E. Garcia 2, Caceres 2, Salvador 2, Manucat 0, Malabanan 0, Alabanza 0, Finuliar 0

PAMPANGA 76—M.Tadeo 21, Bansil 19, Pua 11, S. Garcia 6, Yambao 6, Pile 5, Liangco 4, L. Tolentino 2, Tan 2, Go 0.

Quarters: 20-23, 36-40, 60-57, 80-76.

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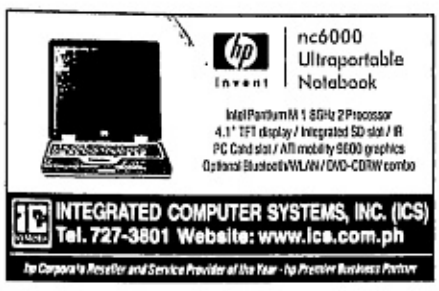

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B1

BUSINESS

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Bank lending up 3.9% as of September

By Clarissa S. Batino

COMMERCIAL bank lending expanded by 3.9 percent in September to P1.47 trillion from P1.41 trillion a year ago as credit to the manufacturing sector picked up alongside a steady growth in loans to the farm, services, real estate and other sectors.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas noted that bank lending had been growing for 13 consecutive months and the expansion rate as of September was slightly higher than the 3.8 percent year-on-year improvement in August.

Bank lending suffered months of contraction before starting to recover in September last year.

The BSP said that loans to the manufacturing sector went up by 7.3 percent in September after a 2-percent contraction the month before. Bank lending to the manufacturing industry accounted for about 25 percent of total loans in September.

Lending to the farm and services sector increased by 9.6 percent in September followed by a 2.8-percent growth in lending to the financial and real estate sectors and a 1.1-percent improvement in the transportation, storage and communication group.

These sectors accounted for more than 75 percent of total loans in September, according to the central bank.

The pick-up in lending to the manufacturing sector followed a 7-percent increase in the volume of production index in August while plant utilization as of September also improved to 78.4 percent from 74.3 percent a year ago.

Growth in bank lending indicates increased economic activity as borrowers use loans to buy a house or a car or even put up or expand a business.

Despite low interest rates and sufficient liquidity in the financial system, credit growth was largely anemic.

Up to now, the government had remained the banks' biggest borrower. Loans to the public sector have been growing by more than 15 percent while growth in credits to the private sector stood below 5 percent.

The BSP said that monetary authorities "would continue to provide a supportive macroeconomic environment to ensure that the country's economic growth gains a firmer footing" while being mindful of any adverse impact to prices and inflation.

Lending had been affected by weak demand for credit caused in part by spare capacity and by tight financial conditions among companies that called for a closer management of cash flow instead of expanding.

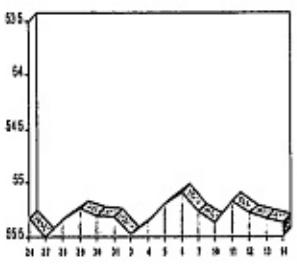
The central bank noted that excess capacity, particularly from the manufacturing sector, curbed the need to seek fresh bank financing for expansion or opera-

BANK/ B6

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

OCTOBER NOVEMBER



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As of 5 p.m., Nov. 14, 2003

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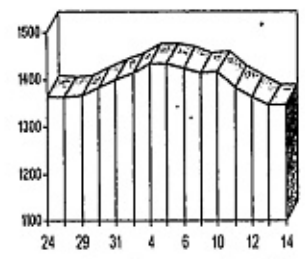
STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

OCTOBER NOVEMBER



(See stock market report on Page B6)

Stocks seen to consolidate

LOCAL stocks are seen to consolidate this week as investors grope for the bottom following a wave of profit-taking made by foreign investors who locked in gains from the favorable third-quarter earnings reporting season.

Although some of the negative developments which hounded the market in previous weeks had been neutralized—such as the impeachment initiative against Supreme Court Justice Hilario Davide—traders said it was uncertain whether the market could draw strength for a decent rally this week.

"The market is being driven by what the foreigners do and their strategy is to take profits after correctly anticipating improved corporate earnings in the third quarter," said Unicapital Securities dealer Eric Claudio.

At the close of last week, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell by 67.58 points or 4.8 percent week-on-week to 1,413.11.

Other unfavorable developments which weighed on the market last week were the Nala siege, the rallies in Ayala and their violent dispersal as well as the rising domestic interest rates.

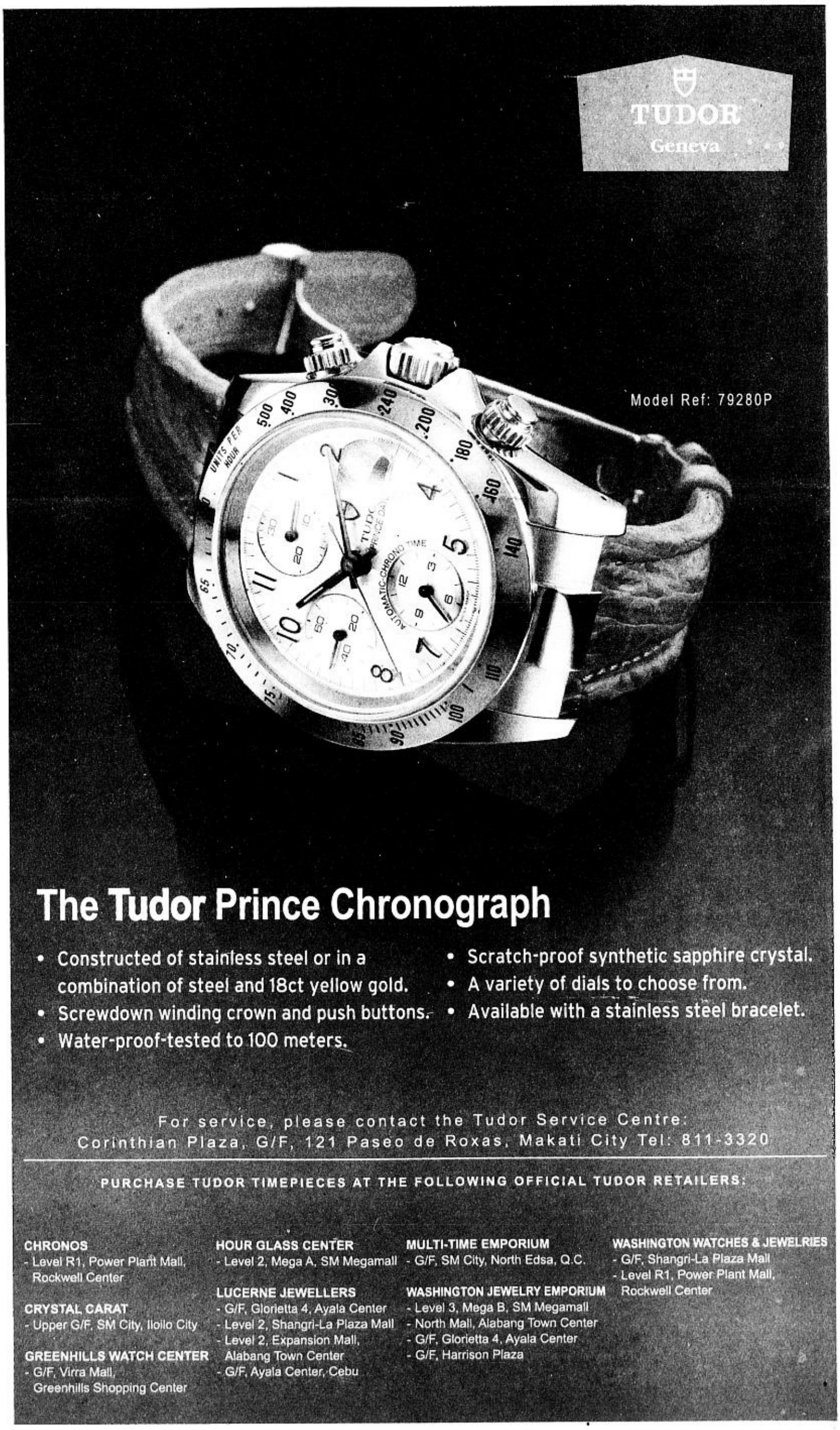
"There are signs that the selling could soon end. Some of the big foreign brokers who were selling are starting to buy. This might slow down the decline but there's no guarantee," Claudio said.

On the other hand, he said local investors were not likely to be in a position to bid up the equities market.

"Liquidity is still tight. Indicators show that they (locals) are neither here nor there. They will still be on the sidelines except for some speculative positioning," Claudio said.

BPI Securities said that given the strong third-quarter results, investors would likely expect even stronger fourth-quarter profits.

"Investors will take market weakness as an opportunity to take new positions. However, we still see political and security risks weighing on the market," it said. ***Doris C. Dumlao***



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Cancel society

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

NOBODY likes to go to prison, even if it's a stateside prison, but it looks like Rep. Mark Jimenez (not his real name) cannot wait to go to jail in the United States.

Even with a sentence of two years in prison, plus a million-dollar fine, based on the media reports, MJ is beyond himself that, finally, the crook must pay for his crime.

Million dollar fine! Why can't he just give the money to our favorite cancer society or something?

And so what makes MJ happy, I guess, as he laughs all the way to the bank, is the modest fine imposed by the stateside court. It is cheap.

Well, at least it is much cheaper than what MJ, for instance, claimed to have shelled out to Jose Pidal (also not his real name) and Laar ... *este*, Nani Perez.

* * *

BUT that is the stateside justice system for you—cheap. The local justice system is a different animal altogether. This one could be really expensive.

It was costly, for one, to thousands of poor innocent stockholders of Cyberbay. They were caught in the crossfire in the battle over the Davide impeachment.

Cyberbay is a publicly listed company. Its only claim to glory is a reclamation project in Manila Bay. This is caught in a long drawn case before the Supreme Court.

Reports said that Cyberbay may soon go bankrupt, and its stockholders may soon lose their shirt, all thanks to the Supreme Court for its ruling to cancel the project.

And the new ruling from the cancel society came out, only right after the Davide camp won the impeachment battle, like there was a message in the ruling somewhere.

Penning the decision was Justice Antonio Carpio, who used to be part of the Carpio Villaraza Cruz law office, otherwise known in business as THE Firm.

* * *

ACTUALLY, contrary to what some in the stock market thought, it was a close call for the poor unsuspecting stockholders of Cyberbay.

The Supreme Court voted 7 "for" and 7 "against." And you can look at it any which way, meaning, seven votes "for" Carpio, which means seven votes "against" the stockholders, and vice versa.

If you notice, if this were only basketball, it should be a tied ballgame. The game is not yet over. Normally, there should be an overtime. In the Cyberbay case before Supreme Court, however, in a score of 7-all, in which nothing decisive can really be said, the poor stockholders lose.

* * *

BECAUSE of that close call, as word in the stock market goes, the Cyberbay stockholders intended to go for another motion for reconsideration. It is said that, in the past, the Supreme Court also entertained a third motion for reconsideration, and so why could it not do the same for those naive stockholders?

Why not? Well, maybe because somebody was in a hurry to redo the whole project, for instance, by giving it to some other groups before the 2004 elections. It was the only urgency which those in stock market could see behind the Supreme Court rush to do the new ruling. The timing seemed perfect.

The Davide camp just won a hard-fought battle, and it looked like they were aching for a little grudge match—i.e. revenge.

* * *

AND you could actually detect some fury in the ruling. Or, as word in the stock market goes, it was the only Supreme Court ruling which came close to using curses.

The ruling talked about it being "time" to bring a "grand finish" to this "grandmother of all scams."

There, see, the Supreme Court would not even hesitate to use some media gimmicks, the usual catchy tags, which normally were good for newspaper headlines.

* * *

BY the way, it was the same approach—the use of headline grabbing tags—which former Sen. Ernesto Maceda used when he first attacked the reclamation project.

As a result, the government filed cases of bribery against former officials of Amari (the original contractor) with the regional trial courts and the Sandiganbayan.

Yet the Supreme Court ruling, as penned by Carpio, already talked of bribery like the other courts already ruled on those cases. Maybe the Supreme Court knows something which were not yet presented to the other courts trying those bribery cases.

If indeed the reclamation project is fouled by bribery worthy of an MJ, then by all means, they should punish the people involved in the bribery—but not the stockholders.

But then again, it is also possible that "bribery" had nothing to do whatsoever in the case before the Supreme Court. It could be something else. Hard to tell.

* * *

ACTUALLY, the ruling said that, in the contract between the government, through PEA, and Amari (now Cyberbay), the "land" was undervalued.

What land? It is more of "water" than anything else. It is a reclamation project, right? There is no land yet. You have to create the land, okay?

Anyway, cited in the ruling was the going rate for "land" in the same reclamation area, which was P90,000 per square meter.

That price, ladies and gentlemen, was actually the appraised value of the area called Asiaworld, for instance, and the others owned by George Ty and Henry Sy.

Those areas already have roads and bridges, plus drainage and utilities, sprinkled with trees, making them inhabitable. In short, FULLY DEVELOPED.

* * *

IN the Amari (Cyberbay) project, there is no land yet. It's all water. Okay, sure, there are three islands. But then it becomes two islands during high tide.

But the Carpio ruling pointed at the detestable pricing in contract, which was P1,200—compared with the going rate of P90,000 per square meter in the area.

In the stock market, they even thought that P1,200 was pretty expensive for an area under water.

Anyway, as they understand the contract in the stock market—the price of P1,200 was not a buying price. Nobody bought anything from the government, i.e. PEA.

The price of P1,200 was used as basis to reimburse PEA for the work it had done so far then in the reclamation project. And PEA already made a profit!

* * *

UNFORTUNATELY, the PEA could not finish the project. It needed a lot of investments. The government did not have the money. Thus, some private groups came forward to offer to do it for a fee. Since the government did not have the money, it would pay for the project with a share in the reclaimed land.

That has been the same set-up throughout the history of the PEA ever since it tapped private groups to do reclamation projects for the government. That was the same formula used in the contract which produced the reclaimed land now owned by George Ty, Henry Sy and Tan Yu.

So what made the Amari (Cyberbay) contract any different? Well, maybe it's because the contract did not pass through the correct hands for ...well, whatever it is that happened when multibillion-peso projects passed through the correct hands.

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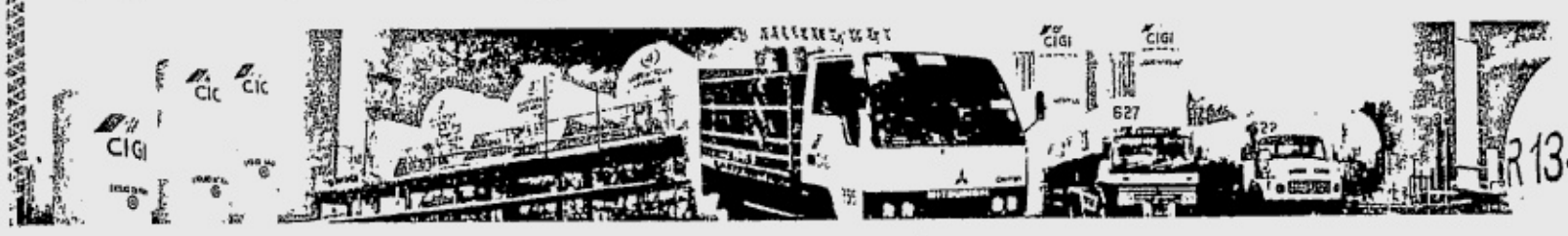

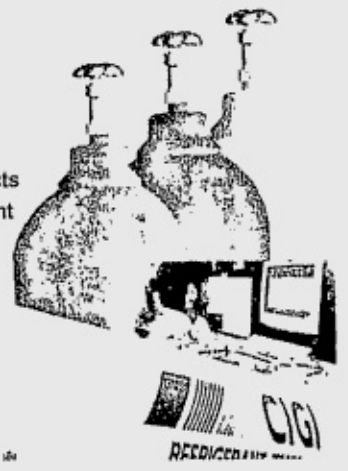

Luzon Hydro readies $20-M project in Benguet

By Ronnel W. Domingo

INDEPENDENT power producer Luzon Hydro Corp. has made an agreement with a local government unit in Benguet to undertake a $20-million (about P1.1 billion) project for diverting more water to its 70-MW power plant in Ilocos Sur.

Luzon Hydro, a joint venture between the Aboitiz group and Pacific Hydro Corp. of Australia, wants to find ways in which more water could be tapped for the plant's use during the dry season.

Erramon Aboitiz, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Aboitiz Equity Ventures, said the project aimed to tap water sources in Benguet through a combination of tunnels and conveyance lines (exposed pipes).

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources requires power companies to enter into agreements with local government units concerning such projects.

"(Luzon Hydro) is now working on securing an environmental clearance certificate. Our plan is to start construction by March 2004," Aboitiz said in an interview.

The official said the project would take 14 months to complete.

He said the company had decided to do the project at a lesser scale compared to the original concept, which would have cost up to $40 million (P2.2 billion).

In an August interview, Aboitiz said a supplementary water project would allow the company to run the 70-megawatt power plant more efficiently.

He said that at current capacity to collect water, the facility could run at only about 40 percent of generating capacity during lean months.

Aboitiz expressed hope that, with additional water, Luzon Hydro might be able to operate the facility at full capacity all year round.

Aboitiz had said that Luzon Hydro's planned water-col-

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Gov't pushes higher tariff on imported tobacco

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance said it would ask the Tariff Commission to increase the tariff on imported tobacco leaves from the current 3 percent on raw and 7 percent on cigarette grade to help tobacco growers, particularly in Northern Luzon, cope with reduced sales.

"We would ask the tariff commission to review the tariffs on tobacco leaf and possibly increase it to the extent that we would not go against our WTO (World Trade Organization) commitments," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said on Friday.

Higher tariffs on imported tobacco leaf would benefit companies patronizing local producers like La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette Co. but would hurt big importers like Lucio Tan's Fortune Tobacco.

He said the DOF would support the request of the local tobacco industry for higher import tariffs but could not give in to the proposal to cancel a revenue regulation imposing higher excise taxes on 18 cigarette brands introduced after 1997. A similar regulation was imposed on alcoholic beverages.

Camacho and Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. met with tobacco farmers and traders as well as local officials headed by Ilocos Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson last week to discuss the impact of a BIR regulation on the local tobacco industry.

The local tobacco industry protested what it described as unfair policy against local players, especially to La Suerte, that remained the biggest buyer of tobacco leaf from the Ilocos region.

"The farmers said that if a policy is unfair to La Suerte, it would hurt them," Camacho recalled. La Suerte was the hardest hit by the BIR regulation among the tobacco manufacturers.

The BIR issued a regulation in August imposing higher tariffs on 18 local and foreign cigarette brands starting September. The internal revenue agency estimated to collect additional taxes of P2 billion a year from the regulation on top of about P3 billion in back taxes.

But the affected players like La Suerte are seeking a permanent injunction on the regulation after a temporary restraining order issued by a local court had expired.

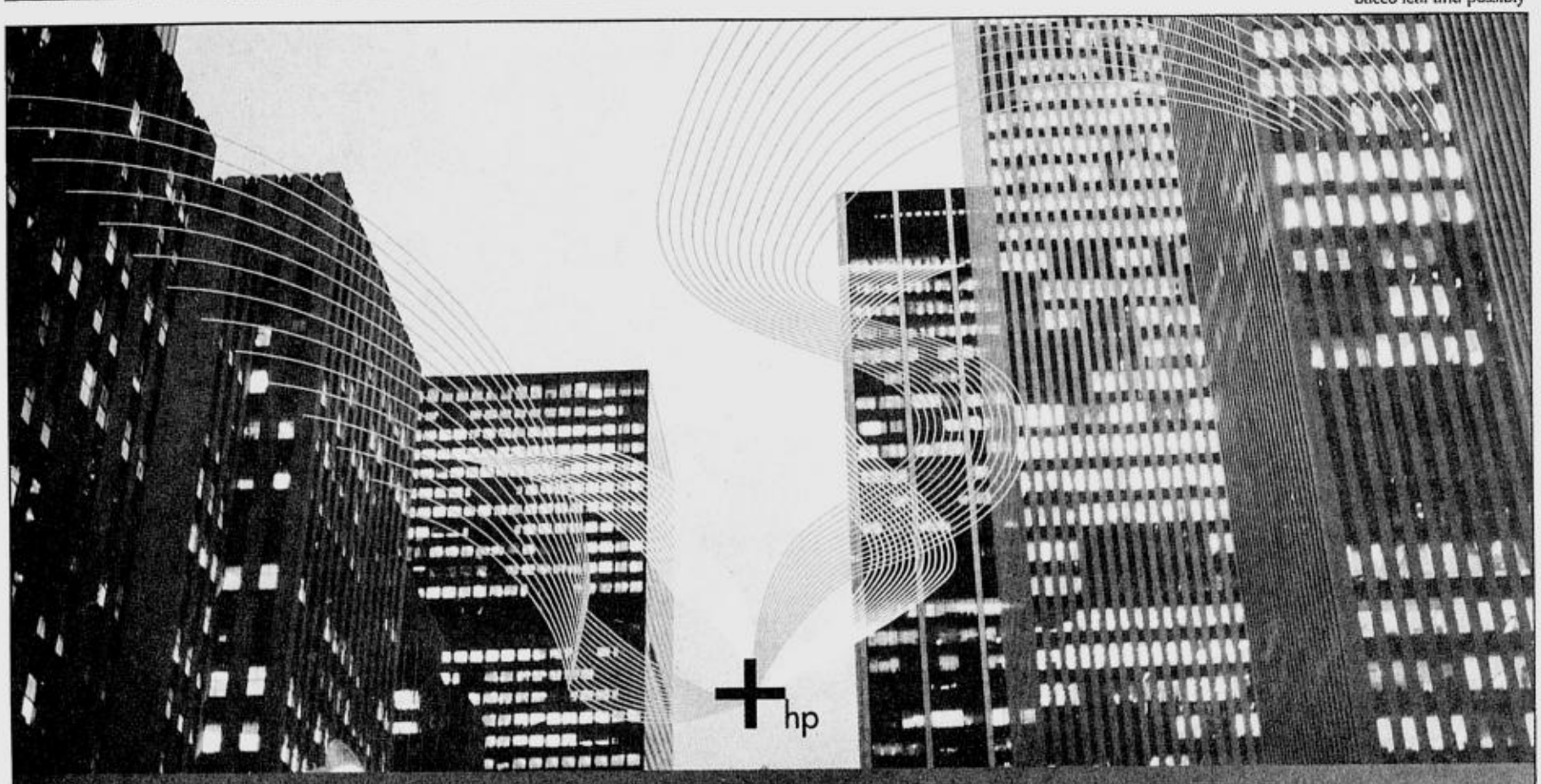
Camacho encouraged the local players to seek relief from the courts because as far as the DOF and the BIR were concerned, they were only implementing the law.

The Comprehensive Tax Reform Program in 1997 fixed the excise taxes on existing brands at that time but provided an adjustment on brands introduced after 1997 following a survey of retail prices at which the tax rates would be based.

"We told them that they could always go to the courts because legally, we have no choice but to implement what the law provided," the finance chief said. Camacho pointed out that some members of Congress had been questioning why the DOF has not been implementing the BIR regulation.

The DOF is addressing administrative weaknesses of tax policies while a bill is pending in Congress to index cigarette and

GOV'T/ B8



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PBCom: Pay up or pass out

PHILIPPINE Bank of Communications is scheduled to meet this week with the government banking regulators to pursue its plan to seek at least P7 billion in fresh capital from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

The plan involves PBCom giving up an equivalent amount of real estate assets and non-performing loans in favor of the BSP and PDIC, and the PBCom shareholders pumping in another P3 billion in new money.

What remains to be resolved by PBCom, according to the grapevine, is the reluctance of the old guards to allow PDIC representatives in the bank's board and executive committee and appoint a comptroller to oversee the bank's finances.

PBCom is controlled by three Chinoy families--the founding and still controlling Nubla family, the Luys of the coconut oil empire, and the Chungs of the La Suerte cigaret fame.

What is puzzling is that, to stave off government assistance, the PBCom shareholders only need to infuse an additional P1.4 billion in loan-loss reserves, a sum that the three families could raise among themselves at a snap of a finger.

According to the grapevine, what is preventing the three families from dipping into their respective pockets is that the Luys, at 37 percent the largest shareholding bloc among the three, would rather concentrate on the commodity business rather than learn to manage a bank.

The second biggest bloc, the Chungs, who control about 30 percent and are the most liquid because of the Philip Morris windfall, are content in being passive investors.

Lastly, the Nublas, whose shareholdings have been reduced to about 28 percent after selling off the majority chunk to the Luys at a premium, are said to be content on living off their wealth, especially after the death of their strong-willed patriarch in March 2001.

The son of the founder, Ralph Nubla Jr., who is vice chair of the board and chair of the executive committee, is said to be contemplating retiring in Canada, where the patriarch's namesake is said to be maintaining a fabulous second home.

No matter how you slice it, the PBCom shareholders have to make a hard decision soon, given the BSP's deadline for banks to improve their gearing.

Despite downgrading it from a universal bank to a plain commercial bank to shore up its financial ratios during the tumultuous Erap years, PBCom still has about P13 billion worth of non-performing loans and repossessed real estate properties in its books, out of a total loan assets of P18 billion (P22 billion if you include interbank lending).

The bulk of these non-performing assets, about P5 billion, were said to have been concentrated in Mindanao.

The US financial giant Lehman Brothers had wanted to acquire the NPA portfolio and had actually finished due diligence on PBCom, but the proposal, for which Lehman was prepared to set up a special purpose acquisition vehicle under the new SPAV Law, was ultimately shot down by the board.

Incidentally, the contemplated BSP-PDIC entry into PBCom follows the Cocobank formula, where the sequestered bank offloaded its non-performing assets in favor of the BSP-PDIC combine in return for fresh money plus in-house supervision.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Unpatriotic tunes

BOTH Globe and Smart have a wealth of pop songs and electronic rings that maybe downloaded by subscribers wishing to tailor their cellphones' ringing tones to their respective tastes or to identify VIP callers.

Unfortunately, both providers do not have Lupang Hinirang, the national anthem, or even Bayan Ko, in their downloadable offerings.

No wonder Energy Secretary Vincent Perez has been reduced to storing a shrieking woman to identify caller Number 1.

The previous sentence is of course a joke.

Heard through the grapevine

SIX theaters of SM Megamall have been contracted for the Nov. 25 movie premiere of "Chavit', chronicling the colorful life of Ilocos kingpin Luis "Chavit" Singson. Editors are still trying to cut down the movie length, which is still running at 3 ½ hours despite already heroic prunings.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Alaska Milk posts 53% profit jump

By Doris C. Dumlao

ALASKA Milk Corp. posted a 53-percent growth in its net profit to P387 million in the first nine months from a year ago on the back of higher sales volume across all product lines as well as some increases in selling price.

AMC reported that its revenues improved by 11 percent to P3.11 billion during the nine-month period, led by the double-digit growth in liquid canned milk.

"The introduction of Alaska Evaporada early this year generated incremental volume for the company's liquid canned milk business, resulting in increased market share in that category," the company said.

It also noted that the Alaska powdered filled milk business gained ground despite the contraction of this market. Modest volume growth was also contributed by the new High Calcium Powdered Milk variant.

AMC's cash position stood at P1.8 billion as of end-September this year. In the stock market, its share price has risen by more than 45 percent since the start of the year.

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ABS-CBN allots P1.5B for capital spending

By Doris C. Dumlao

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. has earmarked P1.5 billion for its capital spending and film rights acquisition for 2004, roughly about the same level of expenditures for this year.

ABS-CBN chief finance officer Randolph Estrellado said that of the total spending planned for next year, P300 million would be used to purchase foreign film rights.

The broadcasting giant hit a gold mine this year with its acquisition of foreign telenovelas such as Taiwanese soap opera Meteor Garden. In general, acquisition of foreign film rights is cheaper than locally produced ones but the company also seeks to beef up its local content programming.

Estrellado estimated that ABS-CBN had spent about P400 million for its film rights acquisition this year.

Production costs, the company's biggest expense item, increased by 18 percent to P2.56 billion in the first nine months of this year compared to P2.17 billion a year ago due to programming changes, such as the airing of more station-produced programs which included a fourth soap opera, a new talk show and a weekly drama series.

During the period, the network attained an audience share of 42 percent and ratings of 17 percent. This translated to a much better bottomline, with net earnings hitting P888.8 million or 1,260 percent better than the nine-month profit last year.

As part of its spending for this year, ABS-CBN's general and administrative expenses rose by 17 percent to P2.2 billion from P1.87 billion in the same nine-month period last year due to start-up expenses incurred for ABS-CBN Europe, which will provide direct-to-home satellite services in Europe.

The new unit is its vehicle to export programming content primarily to cater to the overseas Filipino community in Europe. The expansion to Europe is seen as a natural growth path for ABS-CBN because of its existing programming export to the Middle East.

For instance, it has identified about 100,000 Filipino workers based in Milan who can afford the service.

During the January to September period, its worldwide subscribers grew by 23 percent to 176,830 from a year ago. As of end-June, the global subscriber base stood at 167,636.

ABS-CBN, which started its global expansion in 1998, likewise exports content programming to North America and the Asia-Pacific region.

ABS-CBN Global Ltd., which handles the international business, is a key driver in its net sales. During the first nine months, ABS-CBN Global accounted for 70 percent of the network's total net sales and services of P2.73 billion. Its contribution increased by 38 percent due to an increase in DTH fees from $20 to $23 a month with the addition of Pinoycentral TV to its channel line-up.

GMA 7 posts 296% jump in 9-month profit

By Elena R. Torrijos

GMA Network Inc. moved closer to its yearend target as it registered a net profit of P975 million for the first nine months, 296 percent or P729 million higher than its income of P246 million in the same period last year.

In a statement, the broadcast giant reported it also increased its gross revenues by 65 percent to P4.79 billion from P2.9 billion last year with television (Channel 7) accounting for 95 percent of the total revenues, while the rest came from radio.

Operating expenses for the first nine months increased by 26 percent due to higher production costs and talent fees as the network continuously improved its programming. The network said it has allocated a higher budget for existing programs and has introduced more telenovelas and innovative shows.

GMA's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (Ebitda) for the period stood at P1.97 billion, 103 percent higher than the comparative level in 2002.

The company's cost of borrowing improved by 9 percent as interest expense dropped to P137 million.

Bank lending up . . .

From page B1

tions. The average capacity utilization had remained at less than 80 percent.

The BSP explained that growth sectors like services and communications were not capital-intensive. Thus, they are not expected to borrow from commercial banks.

The consensus among bankers and monetary officials is that lending had remained anemic despite the low interest rate environment provided by the BSP when it brought down its overnight borrowing and lending rates to 11-year lows at 6.75 percent and 9 percent last July 2.

Industry sources said banks continued to charge individuals and small businesses with double-digit lending rates. Some banks reasoned out that they have to input "anticipated risks" on their costs of providing the loans given their huge level of bad loans.

As of August, banks' non-performing loans eased to 14.9 percent of total loans from 15.4 percent a month ago.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 14, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	34,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	16,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43.5	43.5	42	43	972,900
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	2,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33.5	34	33.5	33.5	94,900
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	270,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26.5	27	26	26.5	493,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	28	28	28	28	6,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	4,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1325	1330	1325	1330	1,290
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	26	26	26	26	4,800
Diversified Fin. Network	2	2	2	2	20,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	2,860,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	800	800	790	800	141,490
Ipeople Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	20,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.04	0.041	0.039	0.041	5,900,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	6,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.83	0.87	0.83	0.87	3,800,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	765	775	745	760	346,340
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	206,500
Manila Electric Co. B	19.5	19.75	19.5	19.75	925,100
Petron Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	286,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.2	1,041,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	1	1.02	1	1.02	448,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	15,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	82,400
San Miguel Corp. A	54	54.5	54	54.5	132,000
San Miguel Corp. B	60	60.5	60	60	263,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	20,000
Ayala Corp.	5	5	4.95	5	16,695,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.1	103,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	1,100,000
Atn Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	1,130,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	20,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.21	0.215	750,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.055	0.055	0.05	0.05	1,600,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	450,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17	17	16.75	17	575,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.075	0.08	2,800,000
Ionics Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.5	1.5	241,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	100,000
Medco Holdings	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	300,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	2,255,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	320,000
Music Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	1,010,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.15	0.15	330,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	240,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	3,800,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.29	0.32	0.29	0.29	90,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	10,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1	1.42	1	1.34	130,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	700,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.55	0.57	1,600,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	30,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	380,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	26	26	25	25.5	389,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	20,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6	5.9	6	8,784,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.12	0.13	0.115	0.125	2,480,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	3,115,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	10,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.21	140,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	2,000
SM Development Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.06	23,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.5	29,228,000
Zippora Rity Hldgs Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	29,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	1,570,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	6,930,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	3,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	5,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	7,920,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	610,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	7,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,895,490	60,499,580.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	54,129,430	541,946,270.00
PRO	43,792,000	245,810,810.00
Mining	55,030,000	5,534,350.00
OIL	7,000,000	22,400.00
GRAND TOTALS :	161,846,920	853,813,410.00
	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	422.90	DOWN 2.15
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,005.03	DOWN 1.67
PRO	570.53	UP 9.48
Mining	1,661.23	UP 1.08
OIL	1.38	UP 0.03
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	835.40	UP 0.24
Composite	1,345.53	UP 1.65

NO. OF ADVANCES: 25; NO. OF DECLINES: 17; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 41; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 83; NO. OF TRADES: 1,631

CURRENCIES

November 16, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.852442247	1.000000	55.287000
Japan	Yen	0.007887	0.009252	0.511500
United Kingdom	Pound	1.437644	1.686500	93.241500
Hongkong	Dollar	0.109824	0.128834	7.122800
Switzerland	Franc	0.637102	0.747384	41.320600
Canada	Dollar	0.655825	0.769349	42.535000
Singapore	Dollar	0.494399	0.579979	32.065300
Australia	Dollar	0.613666	0.719891	39.800600
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.26118	2.652590	146.653700
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.227312	0.266660	14.742800
Brunei	Dollar	0.492969	0.578302	31.972600
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.0001	0.000117	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.02137	0.025069	1.386000
UAE	Dirham	0.232102	0.272279	15.053500
Euro	Euro	1	1.173100	64.857200
Argentina	Peso	0.298056	0.349650	19.331100
Brazil	REAL	0.290737	0.341064	18.856400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134446	0.157721	8.719900
India	Rupee	0.018813	0.022070	1.220200
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.224357	0.263193	14.551200
Mexico	New Peso	0.076521	0.089767	4.962900
New Zealand	Dollar	0.536532	0.629406	34.798000
Norway	Kroner	0.121939	0.143047	7.908600
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015106	0.017721	0.979700
South Africa	Rand	0.127143	0.149151	8.246100
Korea	Won	0.000729	0.000855	0.047300
Sweden	Kroner	0.111707	0.131043	7.245000
Syria	Pound	0.020297	0.023810	1.316400
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025146	0.029499	1.630900
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000534	0.000627	0.034700

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Baguio Country Club	750,000	650,000
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Camp John Hay	-	200,000
Capitol Hills	170,000	150,000
Calatagan Golf Club A/D**	70,000/Pls. Call	-
Cebu Country Club	-	1,200,000
Celebrity Sports Club	-	150,000
Club Filipino	155,000	142,000
Eagleridge A/D/C**	300,000/450,000**	262,000
Eastridge	100,000	-
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fontana D/C*/A**	70,000/140,000*/250,000**	-
Forest Hills A/D/C*	190,000/220,000*/250,000**	190,000**
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	10,700,000/11,500,000*	-
Manila Polo	2,300,000	2,200,000
Manila Yacht Club	550,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/D*	450,000/550,000*	500,000*
Metropolitan Club	100,000	-
Monaco Golf Ind./Corp.*	150,000	110,000/200,000*
Mt. Malarayat Ind./Corp.*	230,000	-
Phil. Columbian	60,000	-
Puerto Azul A/B	100,000/150,000*	-
Punta Fuego	-	400,000
Quezon City Sports Club A	-	165,000
Riviera Golf A/D/C**	140,000/165,000*/280,000**	100,000
Rockwell Leisure Club	260,000	Pls. Call
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	Pls. Call	-
Sherwoods A/D/C**	70,000/Pls. Call*	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,300,000/1,650,000*	-
Subic Bay Yacht Club (Corp.)	150,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	370,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	630,000	700,000
Tagaytay Midlands	700,000	-
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Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	70,000
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Canlubang	400,000	500,000
Canyonwoods	-	150,000
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Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	Please Call
Celebrity Sports Club	160,000	200,000
Club Filipino	130,000	175,000
Evercrest "A"	-	60,000
Forest Hills "A"	-	170,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	230,000
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	200,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	250,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	Please Call	-
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	10,100,000
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,350,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	350,000	400,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	500,000	600,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	400,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	100,000
Mimosa (Individual)	110,000	140,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	250,000	275,000
Monlemar (Corporate)	35,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	200,000	275,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	300,000	350,000
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Quezon City Sports Club	140,000	200,000
Rockwell	-	380,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	80,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	105,000	-
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	180,000
Spa & Lodge	600,000	800,000
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Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	220,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	330,000	370,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	830,000
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Evercrest	-	50,000
Forest Hills(class A)	170,000	-
Fairways Blue Water	-	150,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	-	230,000
Makati Sports Club "C"	-	260,000
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,300,00
Mla. Southwoods	-	350,000
Punta Fuego	-	400,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	175,000
Riviera	-	200,000
Royale Tagaytay "A"	-	pls. call
Royale Tagaytay (Corporate)	-	100,000
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CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	please call	please call
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	-	50K
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EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "B"	-	90K
EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "B"	280K	-
EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	65K	please call
EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "B"	-	please call
FONTANA "D"	-	50K
FOREST HILLS GOLF CLUB "C"	-	please call
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	260K	please call
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Ind.)	please call	5.5M
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Corp.)	-	10.7K
MANILA POLO CLUB	please call	2.3M
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	450K	-
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	600K	530K
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	230K	160K
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	200K	-
ROCKWELL CLUB	350K	-
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SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	-	165K
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STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "B"	-	1.3M
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF CLUB	850K	please call
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-	670K
VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	135K	-
VALLEY GOLF CLUB	280K	-
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GMA endorses dev't blueprint for mining sector

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

IN A BID to bring back the luster in the Philippine mining industry, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has endorsed the industry's much-awaited development blueprint and urged the Supreme Court to resolve the legal issues that has stunted the industry's growth.

In a speech during the 50th anniversary of the Philippine Mines Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA) last Thursday night, Ms Macapagal announced a shift in the administration's policy on the industry from "mere tolerance to active promotion of sustainable mining" with her endorsement of the landmark National Minerals Policy through an executive order to be signed on Dec. 3.

This is the first major policy statement on the mineral industry from Malacañang since the Ramos administration, which explained why the President's speech was interrupted more than 30 times with applause.

The President took note of incoming Chamber of Mines of the Philippines president Benjamin Philip Romualdez's observation that "the national minerals policy has been 5 years in the making and it has still no sign of coming to a conclusion."

"It's my administration's policy to promote responsible minerals exploration, development and utilization to enhance economic growth in a manner that adheres to the principles of sustainable development," the President said.

The NMP lays down what local and foreign players can do and cannot do in exploring mineral resources in the country as well as their responsibilities in protecting the environment; respecting the indigenous people's rights, and profit sharing among the players.

Foreign chambers had earlier said that the NMP would send a strong message to investors that they are welcome in the Philippines and that the DENR-MGB could resolve any problems of mining projects with local government units and non-government organizations.

With the impeachment crisis over, the President was optimistic that the high tribunal would finally address the legal stumbling blocks faced by the mining industry over the last few years.

"With the SC having disposed of several long pending issues, perhaps we can soon expect the High Court to go back to addressing other pending, great policy issues including the mining issue," the President said.

The President said that while the SC ponders on the constitutionality of the Mining Act, her government was in the process of harmonizing the implementing rules of the Mining Act and the Indigenous People's Rights Act to facilitate the applications of qualified investors.

Romualdez, president of Benguet Mining Corp., noted that the High Court's wavering on the 8-year-old Mining Act has been a "major stumbling block to the resurgence of the industry" as it has disheartened a number of foreign investors willing to put their money to explore the country's mineral resources.

PMSEA Treasurer Patrick Caoile said the endorsement of the NMP gives local and foreign miners the much needed confidence to pursue mining projects in the country with the government's full backing.

Caoile said the change in policy and designation of an industry "champion"—Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri—would help keep the balance between protecting the environment and taking advantage of the country's resources in crafting mining policies. Caoile said the mining industry—with its vast potential as a magnet for huge foreign investments and a source of export earnings—fitted well with the President's vision of achieving 7-percent growth in the next 7 years.

With the economy growing less than 5 percent and most sectors either down (manufacturing) or flat (services and tourism), Caoile said the government would have to bank on the mining industry to provide the spark to meet its long-term growth objectives.

Other reforms made in the mining industry that were cited by the President were the reduction in processing of environment clearance certificate of start-ups; the provision of P20 million for the rehabilitation of the areas damaged by the Marcopper spill; and government's takeover of Mt. Diwalwal to rationalize the operations of big players, small scale miners, and arterial miners in the ore-rich mountain.

PRESIDENT Macapagal delivers her keynote speech during the 50th Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference at the Manila Hotel as Benguet Corp. president and incoming Chamber of Mines president Benjamin Philip Romualdez (left) and Ms Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez look on.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Trade reform, predatory politics and SPVs

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

I OWE it to my responding readers to share more widely their interesting comments, views and additional information which they have so kindly conveyed to me in reaction to some of my past columns. Below are some of them.

On trade policies

To my lament on how the government is backtracking on our trade reforms, a reader from Metro Manila wrote: "I found your column unusually balanced, especially since the recent statements of (Secretaries Roxas and Lorenzo) strike me as highly political and drafted with an eye on May 2004. But in light of Cancun, has anyone asked what benefits the Philippines would derive from a partial or complete elimination of rich countries' agricultural subsidies? It would seem that there would be very limited market expansion for Philippine exports of tropical products (bananas, copra, mango, papaya, pineapple) which are hardly grown in developed countries anyway."

Our reader may have a point here. The Philippines may have little to benefit directly by way of increased market access from removal of those controversial rich country farm subsidies. On the other hand, our rice and corn farmers would benefit if supports on wheat and other competing cereals that make them artificially cheap were removed. Thus, a product-by-product analysis of what our country has to gain from the removal of the rich countries' farm subsidies would be in order. Still, joining the Group of 21 was not unwarranted on our part. Through the coalition, we have been instrumental in showing the world that global trade can no longer be done on the basis of the "golden rule"—i.e. the one that says those who have the gold make all the rules.

Predatory politics and the economy

Reacting to my reference to predatory politics as being destructive to our economy, a reader from Davao City wrote: "(This) is like blaming the HIV virus for the spread of AIDS. HIV virus is a fact of life. It is really up to an individual to protect himself/herself from AIDS. Predatory politics is part of democracy. As Winston Churchill had aptly said, democracy is the worst kind of government after you exclude the others. It is really up to (the) political leadership to protect itself from predatory politics with good governance."

Our reader continues: "Predatory politics was never an issue during the Ramos administration as it was during the Aquino administration and as it is now under the Arroyo administration. I certainly have a lot to say against the Ramos administration for perfecting traditional politics and its ambivalence toward graft and corruption. I only have praises though for its sound economic management... Despite its strong sense of probity, the Cory administration buckled against predatory politics because of an overall lack of competence. The current GMA administration is vulnerable to predatory politics because of its less than sterling record both in probity and economic management and its trapoism... Despite her strong republic rhetoric, she has actually been pandering with power brokers and vested interests. This explains why the Cabotage Law, among others, which protects a very inefficient local shipping oligopoly could not be repealed... The faltering economy is mere collateral damage. It is really the lack of sound political leadership that is our problem now and not the hecklers."

More SPV Law faults

A reader who is a financial adviser to financial institutions contributed more reasons why the SPV Law is not working, in reaction to my Nov. 3 column. He cites the BSP requirement that each individual account be covered by a separate Certificate of Eligibility (COE), for which a P10,000 fee is required. This not only makes the SPV transaction rather cumbersome; it can also make it rather expensive. For example, if the National Home Mortgage and Finance Corp. (NHMFC) were to sell some 60,000 non-performing loans (NPLs) to an SPV, with an average outstanding principal balance of only P200,000 each, NHMFC would have to dish out P600 million just for the COE fees! He also cites the SPV law's prohibition on joint ventures between the buyer and seller of the NPLs, while placing a 5-percent beneficial interest cap. This rules out what would in fact be the most practical approach when there is a huge pricing gap--and this is indeed the case in the industry now, with banks insisting on at least 40 percent of face value, while the willing buyers would only pay around 20 percent.

Asean5 lives!

Finally, our envoy to Thailand, Ambassador Antonio V. Rodriguez, who was alluded to in my article "Asean5 minus 1?" clarifies that he had never stated that the Philippines was not among the nations capable of going ahead with the idea of an Asean Economic Community (AEC). While the story in the Thai newspaper The Nation leaves the impression that only Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia were named by him in the interview as ready, he asserts: "As far as the interviewers (there were two) and the interviewee were concerned, the early participation of the Philippines... in the AEC process was already a given." This was not obvious from my reading of the Nation article, which provoked my interpretation that Ambassador Rodriguez had been mouthing the "No, we can't" line of some of our Cabinet officials and industrialists that has been used to justify the recent restoration of higher tariff protection. My apologies to Ambassador Rodriguez. And my sympathies to the wider majority of the Filipino people who will bear the cost of this policy reversal.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

Luzon. . .

From page B3

lecting projects were much like what was done with the Casecnan irrigation and power project, but at a smaller scale.

The $650-million Casecnan facility diverts excess water from the Casecnan and Taan rivers in Nueva Vizcaya through a 26-kilometer tunnel built under mountains to a 150-megawatt power plant.

The water then goes to the Pantabangan dam, from where irrigation water is supplied to 135,000 hectares of rice fields.

Cooperatives' meet set Nov. 21-23

THE NATIONAL Cooperative Movement (NCM) in cooperation with the Hanns Seidel Foundation of Germany is conducting the 2nd Century Cooperatives Conference on Nov. 21-23, at the Island Cove Resort in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite.

NCM chair Senen Bacani announced that the conference highlights included the awarding of recognition to the top cooperatives that reached a networth of P100 million as of December 2002. Invitations were sent to top ranked primary cooperatives in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, many of which were also present during the First Century Coops Conference held at Mimosa Resort in Angeles City on Aug. 27-29.

During the conference, the Metro South Cooperative Bank, National Confederation of Cooperatives and the Cooperative Centralized Financial System of the Philippines will do a presentation on the various initiatives on the formulation of the different integration financial systems.

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Gov't pushes higher tariff . . .

From page B4

liquor taxes to inflation. The law, if passed, would give the government about P13 billion in additional revenues over a two-year period.

Brands that were introduced after 1997 were able to pay the excise taxes based on the manufacturers' declaration of retail prices. The BIR said it incurred losses as a result.

Based on the BIR regulation, La Suerte would have to pay P4.48 more in excise taxes per pack for its three brands of Astro and two brands of Memphis.

Prior to the regulation, Astro Menthol 100s, Astro Filter KS, Astro Menthol KS, Memphis F KS and Memphis M only pay an excise tax of P1.12 per pack, but starting Sept. 1 should have paid P5.60 per pack.

Also affected by the new regulation are four brands of foreign firm British American Tobacco that also sought a restraining order against the BIR regulation.

Its Capri Slims, Lucky Strike Filter, Lucky Strike Lts., and Lucky Strike M Lts. would have to pay an excise tax of P13.44 per pack from P8.96 per pack.

Foreign brands previously not paying taxes were slapped a tax of P13.44 per pack. These were Dunhill International, Dunhill Menthol, Nise, Parliament, West Formula Lts., West Full Flavor, West Ice, and West Lts. Local brand L&M FK would also have to pay P8.96 from the P5.60 per pack.

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Aboitiz eyes stake in wind power project in Ilocos

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures Inc. is working with PNOC Energy Development Corp. on efforts toward a possible joint venture in the P2-billion Phase 2 of the Ilocos Norte wind power project, a company official said.

AEV executive vice president and chief operating officer Erramon I. Aboitiz said in an interview that if the partnership pushed through, the company would hold a 60-percent stake while PNOC-EDC would own 40 percent.

"Right now we are studying the feasibility of the project. An assessment of wind power potential in the area is being conducted," Aboitiz said.

The second-phase wind farm will have a generating capacity of 40 megawatts at about P50 million per megawatt or a total of P2 billion, the official said.

"But this will not take off until we see Phase 1 finished and operating," he said.

Aboitiz explained that Phase 1, with a capacity of 42 MW, included the installation of the transmission line that would connect the wind farm to the main power grid. "Phase 2 will need that line so it would have to come after Phase 1 is complete."

He added that based on plans, Phase 2 would be located adjacent to Phase 1 in Burgos town of Ilocos Norte.

Asked why AEV was going into wind projects, Aboitiz said wind power was the fastest growing segment of the energy industry but that current efforts were not enough to develop the field.

Early this month, PNOC-EDC president Sergio Apostol said Japanese firms Sumitomo, Kanematsu, Marubeni and Mitsui prequalified to bid for the contract to build the P3-billion Phase 1 of the Northern Luzon Wind Power Project.

The Japan Bank for International Cooperation is funding the project.

Barring any hitches, Phase 1 is expected to go onstream in the middle of 2005.

According to the Department of Energy, it had identified potential wind power projects representing 500 MW of capacity.

An estimate made by the United States' National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the Philippines had a theoretical maximum wind potential of 76,000 MW.

Insuring buildings under construction

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

WITH the economic slump, there is not much building construction going on. But what little there is, may not be insured properly—at the owner's great peril.

Until about 40 years ago, the only way to insure a building under construction was to buy a simple fire policy. Insurance companies considered buildings under construction as too shaky to be covered against typhoon or earthquake. The policy covered not only the building itself as it goes up, but also the materials at the site. The sum insured was the estimated completed value and the premium was at half the annual rate since the sum insured was reached only at the end of the construction period.

Then the Contractors' All Risks (CAR) policy was introduced. Like all policies of this category, the CAR did not cover all the risks one can think of. It only meant that the policy had a much wider coverage, in terms of perils, than any other policy then existing. For example, it covered collapse as a result of faulty construction, which was not covered under a simple fire policy.

The CAR policy was originally designed to insure the general contractor and his sub-contractors, hence the policy title, against all the perils he was exposed to during construction. The policy covered damage on the building itself, the materials at the site, the contractor's equipment and third party liability.

But soon after the introduction of the policy, the owner realized that, under Philippine conditions, he had more at stake in the project than the contractor and his sub-contractors. At the signing of the contract and before breaking ground, the owner had to make a down payment of as much as 35 percent of the project cost. As the construction went on, he made progress payments equal to 10 percent of completed value. By the time the contractor turned over the project, the owner had paid 90 percent of the project cost.

Apart from these, the owner was secondarily liable in case of third party claims, such as those arising from damage to surrounding buildings. Also, by allowing the contractor to take out the policy, the owner raises his insurance costs because the contractor puts a markup on the premium that he eventually passes on to the owner. Finally, the owner is unable to make use of his own connections with the insurance industry.

So, the owner took out the policy, through an insurance agent or broker of his choice, with an insurance company he had confidence in. The contractor and his sub-contractors were advised that their billings were not to include the CAR premiums. Thus, the owner had full control of the CAR policy throughout the construction period.

But, nowadays, the owner-controlled policy seems to be the exception. Part of the reason is that the sub-contractor to the general contractor is gone. Each phase—foundation, civil, mechanical, electrical and plumbing—is under a different contractor with a separate contract directly with the owner. If elevators are to be installed, that is another separate contract.

The major reason, however, is that the owner does not realize what he is getting into when he allows each contractor to take out a separate policy. The project may be insured by as many as six different policies issued by six different insurance companies. Think of the complexities if a claim involves all six policies.

Recently, a client of mine, contrary to my suggestion, allowed the contractors to take out their own policies on a high-rise building he was putting up. While the foundation was being dug, the neighboring high-rise building began to tilt. The CAR policy of the foundation contractor, and his total assets, were not enough to cover the third party claim. The owner, being secondarily liable, had had to come across. The project is suspended indefinitely.

If you have a major construction project, please follow the advice of your insurance agent or broker. His commission is money well earned.

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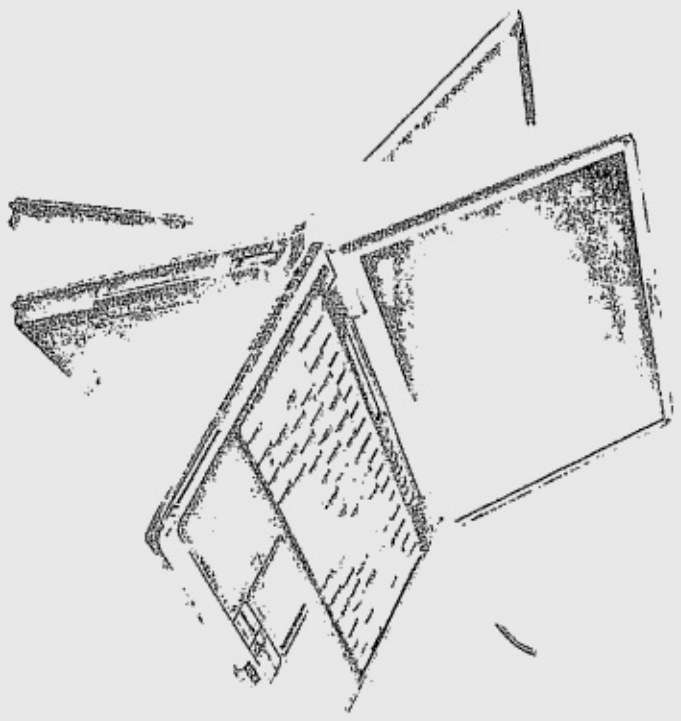

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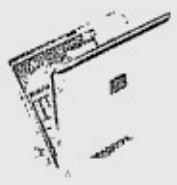

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BIR to double withholding tax rate on professionals

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue said it would soon issue a regulation doubling to 20 percent the creditable withholding tax rate on all professionals--among them doctors, lawyers, and accountants—earning more than P1 million a year in a bid to improve collections and plug tax evasion.

The move should also address the complaint of entertainers and athletes who claimed they were singled out by a similar revenue policy implemented in 2001. Professionals earning P1 million and below would still be subject to a 10-percent rate.

The new policy would supplement a BIR regulation starting January that finally imposed the 10 percent value-added tax from banks and professionals spared from the impost since 1996 when all other sectors were required to pay the VAT. But Congress recently passed a law bringing back the 5-percent gross receipts tax for the financial sector in lieu of the VAT and restoring the exemption of doctors and lawyers from the value-added impost.

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said the new regulation to be submitted for the finance department's approval this week would amend the 2001 policy that required entertainers and athletes earning more than P720,000 annually to pay a creditable withholding tax of 20 percent from an earlier rate of 10 percent.

A withholding tax deducted in advance from an individual is eventually subtracted from the final obligation that a taxpayer eventually remits to the government during tax payment season.

A 20-percent withholding tax is equivalent to a final tax that a person earning P140,000 yearly will have to pay the government. But many professionals, especially entertainers and athletes, earn much more than that in a year.

Professionals are classified as "hard to tax" because their earnings vary, unlike wage-earners whose withholding tax end up to be their final tax obligation.

To be covered by the doubling of the withholding tax rate are lawyers, certified public accountants, doctors of medicine, architects, engineers, marine surveyors, doctors of veterinary science, dentists, professional appraisers, connoisseurs of tobacco, and interior decorators.

These professionals would join the BIR's 2001 list that included entertainers such as, but not limited to, actors and actresses, singers and emcees; professional athletes including basketball players, pelotaris, and jockeys; all directors involved in movies, stage, radio, television, and musical productions.

Also included in the BIR regulation two years ago were other recipients of talent fees, fees of corporate directors whose duties were confined to attendance and participation during board meetings, and companies acting as agents for entertainers and performers.

"The amounts subject to the increase in withholding tax include not only fees but also per diems, allowances, and any other form of income payments. In the case of professional entertainers, athletes, and all recipients of talent fees, the amount subject to withholding tax shall also include the amount paid to them for the use of their names in pictures or in print," according to the BIR regulation in 2001. The provision is to be likely retained by the new policy.

The Department of Finance said the exemption of professionals from VAT had cost the government P8.6 billion in foregone revenues each year.

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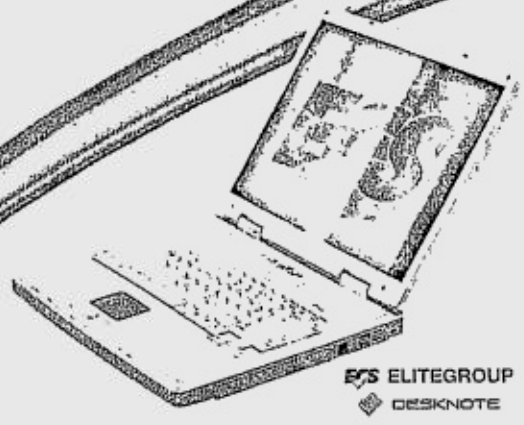

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PVB'S OPLAN BETERANO

Caring for the bank's most valued customers

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

AT ONE time, they bravely faced the country's enemies to fight for our freedom, and many survived bearing the scars of what they went through in World War II.

Decades later, they face a different battle, this time to get their monthly government pension from the Philippine Veterans Bank.

CORPORATE CITIZEN

It is a daunting task for these elderly veterans, many of whom go to the bank every 20th of the month as early as 3 in the morning just to be the first in line to get their average pay of about P5,000. Some even collapse from heat and exhaustion.

But since it is the sole source of income for many of these veterans and their families, they endure the travel and the long hours of waiting just to get hold of their checks.

The sight of these WWII veterans weakened by age, or their spouses and children fighting their way into the bank's Camp Aguinaldo branch every month, left a bad taste in the mouth of the officials and staff of Philippine Veterans Bank.

It was estimated that as many as 16,000 pensioners, out of 200,000 registered pensioners, go to the Camp Aguinaldo branch every month.

The bank, thus, came up with its Oplan Beterano program two years ago to help these pensioners—some veterans, others their surviving spouses—get their checks as fast and as easy for them as possible.

SOME veterans line up as early as 3 in the morning just to get their pension.

The Oplan Beterano program was the result of the efforts of the PVB team that studied various ways and means to improve the processes and requirements, without compromising standards of accountability and other banking and regulatory requirements.

Led by PVB president and CEO Ricardo A. Balbido Jr. and COO Robert Buhain, the Oplan Beterano program put in place an improved logistics system to service as many of these veterans as possible in one banking day.

Numbering system

During pension week, when the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office releases the checks, PVB opens as early as 7 a.m. and PVB volunteer employees are on duty to serve the veterans with hot noodles, biscuits, water and coffee to keep their strength up for the long wait.

PVB Metro Manila Area Head Nimfa Espero said one of the key components of the program is the strict numbering system to ensure that the first to arrive would be the first to be served.

"We want all our pensioners to be assured that the numbering system is followed, and that once they have a number they will be served that day. *Walang palakasan, walang singitan*. The veterans themselves support us and we have been getting good responses from a growing number of pensioners," Espero says.

"They are at least certain that we won't allow people to get ahead of them. We are conscious of this aspect to manage the "psychology of waiting," adds Buhain.

Servicing tellers are doubled at the Camp Aguinaldo branch and other volunteers are around to help the veterans fill up the forms, direct them to the right personnel, answer their questions and look after their needs. And the branch does not close until all the veterans are served.

PVB even got permission from the Camp Aguinaldo officials to close off the street to set up a waiting area for the pensioners during pension week. Huge tents made from parachutes are set up with chairs and tables to accommodate the veterans or their surviving spouses and family members.

Shuttle services

PVB also provides shuttle services to and from the branch to Edsa or Santolan Ave. There are portable toilets and a volunteer medical team from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center is on standby to watch out for medical emergencies. Wheelchairs are also provided the veterans who need special care.

The desire to help these veterans has spread throughout the organization that all employees have been called on to help during pension week at one time or another during the year.

"We all have to pass through serving our veterans. We believe that if we can serve these veterans, some of whom can be really cranky, then we can service all our customers," explains PVB corporate communications officer Miguel Angelo Villa-Real.

He adds that Oplan Beterano fulfills part of the vision of the private, commercial bank to "serve and care beyond our heroes' dreams." It was the least the bank could do as the same veterans are the stockholders of the bank as decreed by Republic Act No. 3518, enacted in 1963.

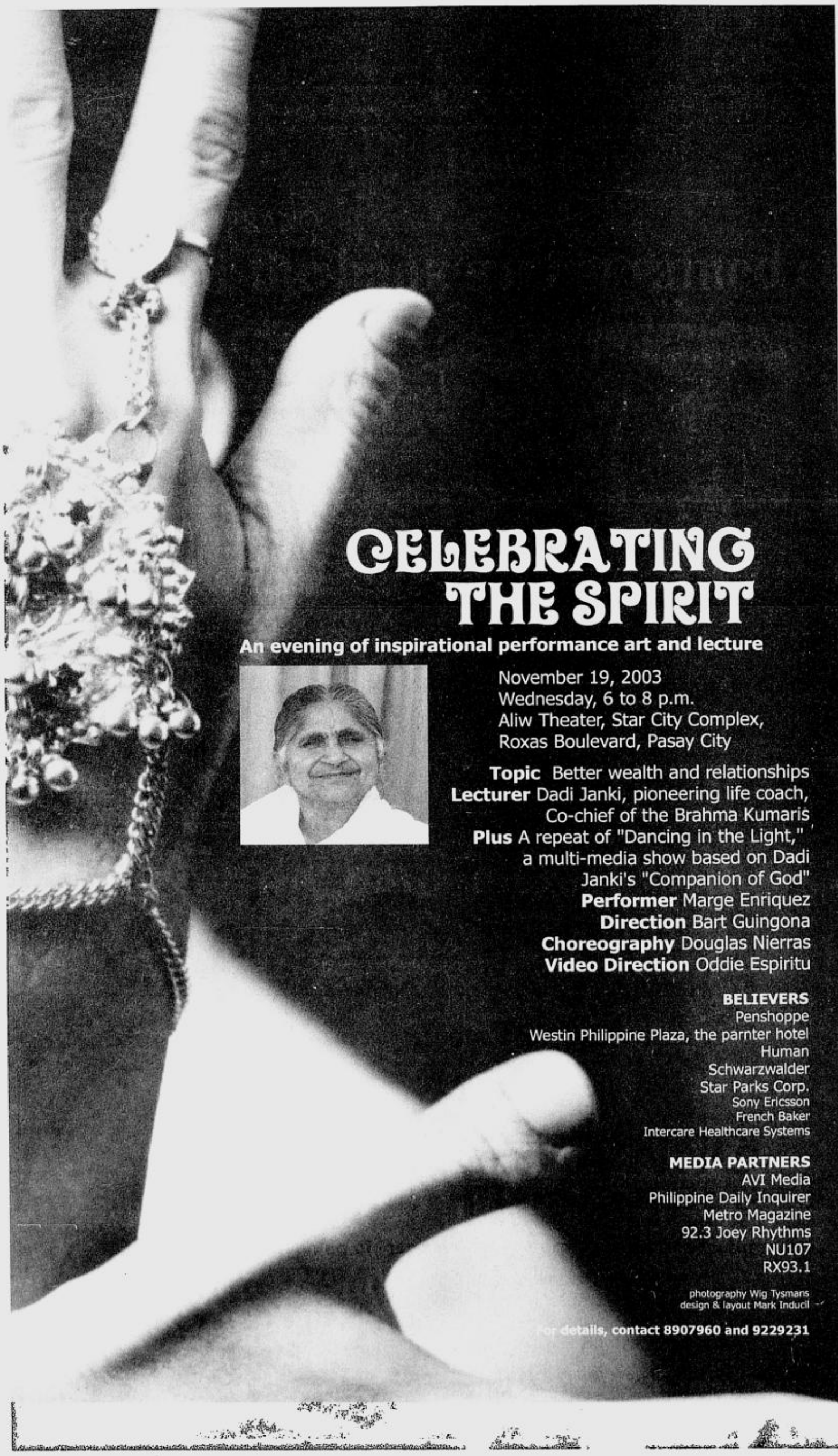
From the Camp Aguinaldo branch, Oplan Beterano is now institutionalized in all PVB branches nationwide and after two years, the bank recognized employees who have volunteered for Oplan Beterano for 18-24 months straight.

"It is heartwarming to note that we're now celebrating two years of Oplan Beterano. When we were starting this project in 2001, some thought that "*ningas kugon lang iyan*'. Yet our will and perseverance has proven them wrong," Buhain said during the simple recognition ceremonies.

PVB continues to improve the services and programs under Oplan Beterano to make service delivery even more efficient.

Buhain adds: "The bottom line is full satisfaction of our most valued customer, the veteran: hero, pensioner, our stockholder and a real patriot."

PVB's employees help the veterans fill up their forms.



Euro zone, Japan point to global economic growth

LONDON—The euro zone and Japan added to increasing optimism that the world is moving out of the economic doldrums on Friday with figures showing growth is beginning to power ahead.

But economists were still hedging their bets about the prospects of a full-blown, and sustained, recovery outside the economic powerhouse of the United States.

In Tokyo, a report showed gross domestic product grew 0.6 percent in the third quarter of this year over the previous three months, higher than expected and following 0.9 percent growth in April-June.

News from Brussels added to the picture of a world emerging from the chilly economic climate that has engulfed it for more than two years, with euro zone July-September growth a touch higher than markets had foreseen at 0.4 percent.

"The real economy data is completing the picture of a coordinated global economic recovery," said Desmond Supple, head of research in Asia for Barclays Capital.

"The question that will remain now, is to what extent can this persist into next year?" he said.

He was speaking before the official euro zone data came out, but figures from Germany and France on Thursday had already made it clear that the news from Brussels would be encouraging.

Germany emerged from recession in the third quarter with growth of 0.2 percent while France, the second largest euro zone country grew twice as fast. Italy came in with a figure of 0.5 percent growth earlier on Friday.

The overall euro zone figure, which reversed a 0.1 percent contraction in the second quarter, showed the economy growing at its fastest rate in a year.

The European Commission said it could pick up more steam in the next six months. It expects expansion of between 0.2 and 0.6 percent in the fourth quarter of 2003 and 0.3 to 0.7 percent in the first quarter of 2004.

Analysts welcomed the data cautiously, saying it did not mean growth would return quickly to the long-term trend and that the European Central Bank was likely to stand pat on interest rates for some time.

"It doesn't really suggest that there's going to be a vigorous pick up, of course. I think that we would be looking for growth next year in the euro zone of around 1.5 percent," said Trevor Williams at Lloyds TSB in London.

That echoed comments made on Thursday by European Central Bank Vice-President Lucas Papademos who predicted euro zone growth would not return to its 2-2.5 percent annual potential until 2005.

The Japanese and euro zone figures contrast with recent US data showing the world's largest economy roaring ahead by an annualized 7.2 percent in the third quarter, the strongest in almost 20 years.

When looked at on the same basis as European data, US growth was a more modest 1.7 percent quarter-on-quarter and 3.3 percent year-on-year, according to Reuters calculations, but still more than four times as fast as Europe quarter on quarter. *Reuters*

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CHAIR of German electrical engineering conglomerate Siemens Heinrich von Pierer, poses with a telephone as he gives a press conference in Munich, where he announced fourth-quarter earnings outstripped its own expectations, fueling optimism for its current business year. AFP

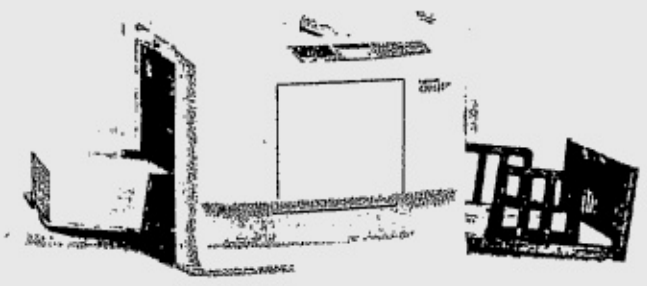
Baka tumakbo si FPJ.
Baka tumakbo si Noli.
Baka tumakbo si Ping.

UNIVERSAL REINSURANCE CORPORATION
SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT
As of December 31, 2001

ADMITTED ASSETS		
Bonds	₱	687,626,600.00
Stocks		175,635,138.00
Real Estate		104,000,339.00
Mortgage Loans		43,257,975.00
Collateral Loans		4,488,214.00
Other Loans		106,993.00
Security Fund		75,801.00
Other Investments		15,250,000.00
Cash in Office and in Banks		104,701,088.00
Premiums Due From Ceding Companies		110,445,108.00
Premiums Reserve W/held By Ceding Cos.		70,544,309.00
Reinsurance Recoverable on Losses		117,669,935.00
Loss Reserve W/held by Ceding Cos.		1,592,099.00
Other Reinsurance Accounts Receivable		1,049,407.00
Accrued Interest Income		23,889,558.00
Electronic Data Processing Equipment		1,963,588.00
Total Admitted Assets	₱	1,462,296,152.00
LIABILITIES		
Losses and Claims Payable	₱	428,633,540.00
Reserve for Unearned Premiums		109,970,352.00
Premiums Due to Reinsurers		218,707,686.00
Premiums Reserve W/held for Reinsurers		42,161,553.00
Other Reinsurance Accounts Payable		9,872,962.00
Accrued Expenses		5,520,302.00
Taxes Payable		928,812.00
Catastrophe Loss Reserve		4,757,845.00
Accounts Payable		927,081.00
Total Liabilities	₱	821,480,133.00
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Capital Stock Paid-Up	₱	328,022,880.00
Special Surplus Fund:		
Fluctuation Reserve - Stocks		41,380,034.00
Retained Earnings		271,413,105.00
Total Stockholders' Equity	₱	640,816,019.00
Total Liabilities & Stockholders' Equity	₱	1,462,296,152.00

(This Synopsis, prepared from the 2001 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner, is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code)

Ito, siguradong tatakbo.



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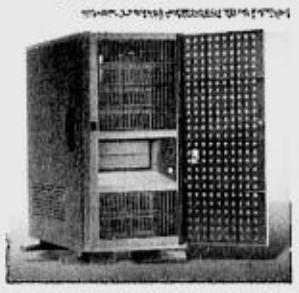
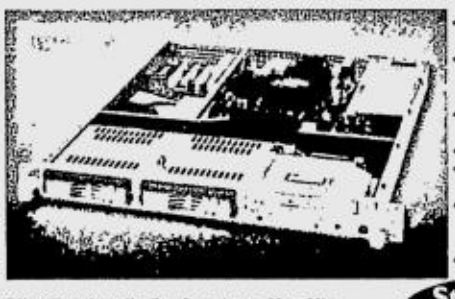


- Intel Pentium 4 processor 2.66 GHz Hyper Threading (800MHz)
- TwinMOS Dual Channel 512MB (2*256MB)PC3200 DDR400 (up to 4GB)
- 80 GB Serial-ATA HD
- Enlight CD-RW
- Built-in Intel Extreme Graphics Accelerator
- Intel 875 chipset
- 2x Intel 82547EI Gigabit Ethernet Controller (66MHz)
- 6 USB 2.0/1.1 ports
- 1 Infrared Header
- 420watts redundant cooling power supply

SuperServer 5013G-6



- Intel Pentium 4 2.53 GHZ 800 MHZ
- 512 MB up to 2GB DDRAM Unbuffered
- Dual Intel Gigabit 8254 OEM
- 512 KB Cache
- ATI Rage XL 8MB PCI
- Dual Channel U160 Adaptec 7899 w
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Aboitiz group to bid for Olongapo power contract

By Doris C. Dumlao

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures has set its sights on taking over the power distribution system in Olongapo City following its recent takeover of a similar system owned by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

In a briefing with INQUIRER last week, AEV chief operating officer Erramon Aboitiz said the group was keen on bidding for the contract to distribute power in Olongapo, which would be conducted before the presidential elections next year.

"I think they are following a similar concept as Subic. In Subic, they did not sell the assets; instead they turned over the distribution system and asked the private sector to make improvements. At the same time, they want to earn from it," Aboitiz said.

In the case of the Subic Bay Freeport, he said consumers would benefit from the rehabilitate-operate-transfer arrangement with the AEV-led consortium given the 0.40 peso reduction in power distribution rates to 0.5975 per kilowatt-hour from the previous 1.00 peso per kWh, a rate which will be fixed for five years.

The consortium is spearheading the rehabilitation, restructuring and expansion of the distribution system in Subic over a five-year period at an estimated cost of P368 million.

Aboitiz said AEV might also take in equity partners should it bag the Olongapo City project.

For its Subic Bay project, it took in Mirant Industrial Power II Corp. as a partner with a 20 percent stake while AEV's subsidiary Davao Light & Power Corp. controls 40 percent.

DTI wooing IBM to bring outsource operations to RP

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES is encouraging IBM Corp. to make the country the site of its vast business process outsourcing operations.

This move would bring in huge investments and create thousands of jobs.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said he met with officials of IBM early last week to discuss the merits of placing the firm's BPO operations in the country.

Roxas said he has high hopes the country would be able to forge a deal with IBM as the Philippines has established a good track record in providing BPO services for a number of foreign companies.

These foreign companies centralized some backroom operations in the Philippines due to factors such as English proficiency and high quality of labor.

He said officials of IBM are now scouting for a location for its BPO services and are expected to decide by early next year.

IBM has expanded its business from the production of computer hardware to providing clients with BPO services such as finance, accounting and human resource activities.

He added that the IBM officials cited the quality of graduates—particularly proficiency in accounting and other business courses—English competency and security among its top considerations in choosing the preferred location.

The move to be part of IBM's choices was prompted by the recent acquisition by IBM of Procter and Gamble's finance, accounting, human resource and other support services.

Some of these operations are based in the Philippines.

The acquisition of the support services came after IBM won the $400-million contract for Procter and Gamble's support services.

The transferring of its support services to IBM was part of Procter and Gamble's move to focus its efforts on its core business, which is marketing.

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Equitable PCI Q3 profit up 53% to ₱320M

By Elena R. Torrijos

EQUITABLE PCI Bank, the country's third largest lender, posted a 53 percent increase in profit in the third quarter of this year to P320.41 million from P209.52 million in the same period last year.

The third quarter figure pushed the bank's profit in the first nine months to P985 million, up 79.8 percent from last year.

Unlike other banks that posted higher profit this year on the back of large trading gains, Equitable said its profit in the third quarter came from higher net interest income and controlled expenses.

The bank's net interest income for the three-month period rose by 26.7 percent due to a significant rise in interest revenue and the faster growth in low-cost deposits.

For the third quarter, the bank also set aside P464.38 million as provisions for probable loan losses.

The bank also said that other income grew by 16.7 percent, due to higher trading gains and foreign exchange profits. Operating expenses stood at P2.47 billion, a slight 4.56 percent rise from last year's figures.

For the first nine months of this year, the bank said net interest income grew 26.6 percent to P4.77 billion despite prevailing low interest rates.

In a bid to strengthen its balance sheet, Equitable PCI Bank successfully floated $200 million in unsecured 10-year notes in the second quarter of this year, bringing in some P10.9 billion in fresh funds to the bank.

As of end-September this year, the bank's total capital funds amounted to P42.22 billion, total assets reached P290.95 billion, deposit liabilities stood at P173.9 billion and net loans rang up to P125.15 billion.

DA to deploy rolling stores

By Christine A. Gaylican

IN A BID to arrest the rising prices of chicken meat in public markets, the Department of Agriculture and the country's top broiler producers have agreed to deploy rolling stores in key areas around Metro Manila.

These rolling stores to be deployed beginning Nov. 21 will sell chicken meat at an average of P80 per kilogram as against the prevailing market price of between P95 and P100.

The Philippine Association of Broiler Integrators and the United Broiler Raisers Association would deploy these rolling stores.

Pabi includes San Miguel Corp., Swift Foods Inc., Tyson-Agro-Ventures Inc., Universal Robina Corp. and Vitarich Corp.

Pabi, which accounts for 80 percent of the country's broiler production, informed Department of Agriculture officials led by Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo Jr. that the industry could adequately supply the country's chicken requirements.

Broiler industry representatives agreed with DA officials during the meeting that the sudden price increase of chicken in Manila was not due to lack of supply but most likely caused by unscrupulous traders and price manipulators out to make a quick profit, especially in public markets.

"They suspected these traders created the artificial price hike to justify the clamor to import chicken in time for the Christmas holidays," explained DA Undersecretary Cesar Drilon.

He noted that at the prevailing exchange rate of P55.50 to the dollar plus shipping and handling charges and excluding the 40 percent tariff, imported chicken from Thailand or China would have a final landed cost of P93 per kilogram, higher than the P84 per kg wholesale price of local chicken.

He warned that traders should not smuggle chicken and other poultry products from China, because these could be infected by the avian flu virus.

Public sector deficit rose by 12% in Q1

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S consolidated public sector deficit increased by 12 percent in the first quarter to P60.34 billion, from P53.82 billion in the same period last year, mainly due to the financial troubles hounding state-run companies such as the National Power Corp.

Adding to the problem was the lower-than-programmed surpluses posted by pension funds Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and government banks.

The deficit in the first three months, however, was below the P72.3-billion target. This was due to the lower-than-expected deficit recorded by government corporations of only P9.78 billion, as against the programmed P40.7 billion for the period, according to data from the Department of Finance.

The same data showed that government expenditures exceeded revenue by P58.88 billion in the first quarter.

The consolidated public sector deficit indicates how well the government and its controlled corporations manage their finances. The deficit is closely watched by agencies such as the International Monetary Fund.

The IMF expects that the country's consolidated deficit this year will hit P290 billion or 6.6 percent of the gross domestic product.

Apart from the government deficit, the CPSD includes the financial position of 14 government owned and controlled corporations, state-owned financial institutions including the two pension funds, local government units, plus the cost of restructuring the debts of the old Central Bank.

PLDT reopens circuits to MCI

By Abigail L. Ho

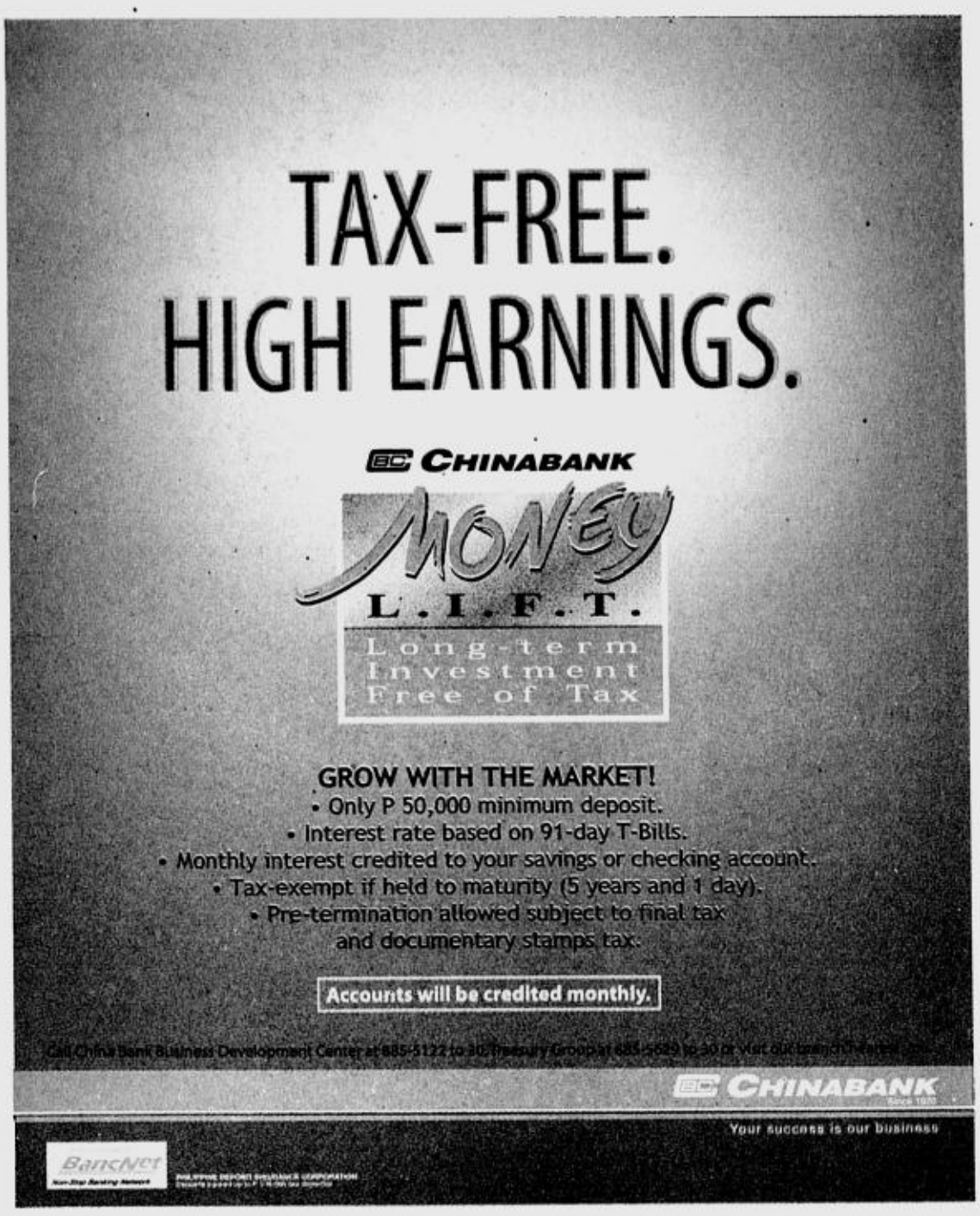
DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. has reopened its circuits to American carrier MCI International after forging an interim agreement that could lead to the resolution of a long-standing dispute on termination rates.

PLDT senior vice president Alfredo Panlilio said in a statement that under the agreement, PLDT would accept call traffic from MCI's network, provided that the American carrier settles all its outstanding obligations to PLDT.

MCI also has to start paying PLDT the termination rates due the local carrier for calls completed on PLDT's network as soon as the US Federal Communications Commission lifts the stop-payment order affecting PLDT and other Philippine carriers.

Last February, PLDT and other local carriers Smart Communications Inc., Globe Telecom Inc., Digital Telecommunications Phil. Inc., Bayan Telecommunications Inc. and Subic Telecom jacked up termination rates to 12 US cents from 8 US cents for landline calls and to 16 US cents from 12 US cents for mobile phone calls.

US carriers AT&T Corp. and MCI bucked the rate increase and even lodged a complaint against the local carriers with the FCC. The two American carriers accused the local carriers of whipsawing, or pitting US carriers against each other to get better deals.



5 stores caught selling non-certified plywood

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has apprehended and penalized five hardware stores for selling plywood that have not been certified by the Bureau of Product Standards.

The stores—namely Evergold Builders, Janner Enterprises and CPK Enterprises in Iloilo, and New Fercal Hardware & Lumber and San Carlos Lumber in Pangasinan—were caught selling the illegal merchandise during joint monitoring operations by the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) and the DTI provincial offices of Ilo-Ilo and Pangasinan.

Plywood is one of the products that require a product certification from the DTI before sale or distribution.

PWPA, which has signed a memorandum of agreement with the DTI to conduct market monitoring activities, said non-certified plywood that proliferate in the market are usually technically smuggled or illegally manufactured.

The group said it has gathered reports that smuggled plywood usually come from Malaysia and enter the country through the port of Zamboanga. These non-certified plywood are distributed in Metro Manila, Cebu, Ilo-Ilo and Pangasinan.

According to Leonardo Angeles, executive director of PWPA, non-certified plywood caught by the group in its monitoring activities are also usually substandard and cheaper than legally produced plywood.

He said the sale of non-certified plywood has harmed legitimate businessmen that pay the proper duties and taxes.

"Some plywood manufacturers have expressed alarm over the presence of unmarked plywood in the market because this could cause a lot of harm to legitimate businesses if not properly controlled," said Angeles in an interview.

Angeles said PWPA and the DTI are now set to go after the unmarked plywood dealers of the five hardware stores, as the government agency and the private-sector group have heightened efforts to crack down on the distribution of illegally distributed plywood.

JG Summit posts 89% profit decline in Q3

By Elena R. Torrijos

JG SUMMIT Holdings Inc., the publicly listed holding company of the Gokongwei group, suffered an 89 percent drop in profit in the third quarter of this year to P50 million from P470.3 million last year due to losses from its mobile phone and airline businesses.

Documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission showed that JG Summit's telecommunications arm Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. posted a consolidated net loss of P722.8 million in the first nine months of this year from a profit of P18.9 million in the same period last year.

Cebu Air Inc., meanwhile, swung to a loss of P29.6 million from a comparative profit of P234 million last year because of higher operating costs and expenses although revenue rose during the period.

JG Summit's consolidated revenue grew by 13 percent in the first quarter to P13.211 billion but was outpaced by costs and expenses, which rose to P13.075 billion.

This led to a decline in net operating income to P135 million for the period from P707.27 million the year before.

JG Summit's profit for the first nine months of P1.772 billion hardly moved from the P1.778-billion profit recorded in the same period last year.

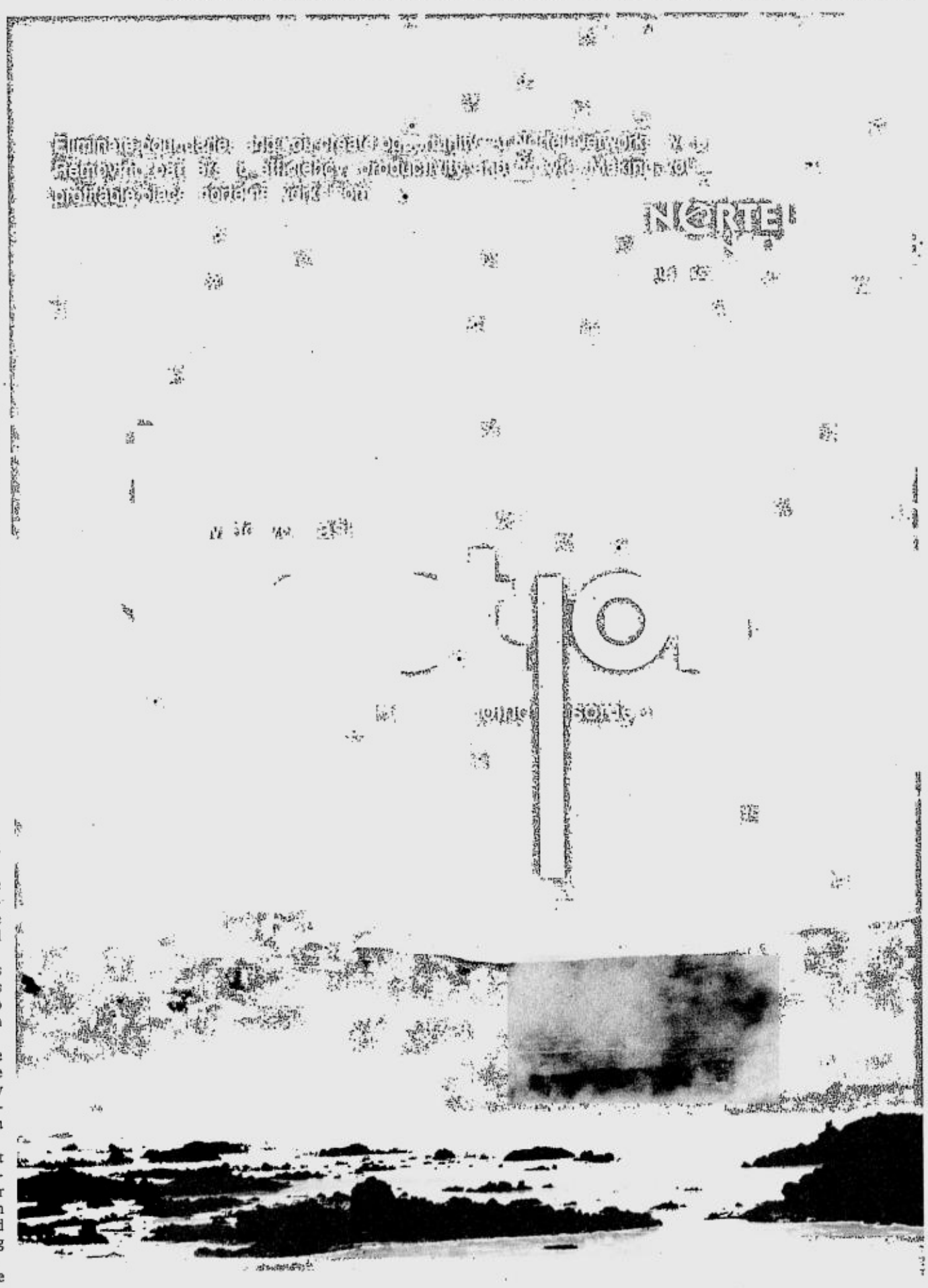
Excluding nonrecurring items from the nine-month period this year, profit fell 33.7 percent to P1.31 billion from P1.98 billion last year.

The company said that aside from losses in the mobile phone and airline businesses, the steady climb of interest rates and depreciation of the peso took its toll on the bottom line.

JG Summit, however, said that it remained "optimistic" that operations in the rest of the year would improve as business from foods, commercial centers and airlines tend to pick up during this time.

It also expected losses from the petrochemical business to be cut further.

Interest and other financing charges of the company during the nine-month period grew 5.3 percent to P3.78 billion primarily due to debt service on bond issues in February and June this year amounting to $125 million and $300 million.



Greenspan: Change in US economy certain

WASHINGTON—Federal Reserve chair Alan Greenspan said Friday that monetary policy-makers face the inescapable fact that they must make decisions in a world of uncertainty.

"Uncertainty is not just an important feature of the monetary policy environment, it is the defining characteristic," Greenspan said as he opened a two-day Fed conference covering some of the latest academic research on monetary policy.

Greenspan said that the implementation of monetary policy "at its core" involved the process of using risk management techniques to determine the likely outcomes of a wide array of policy options.

Greenspan said nothing about the current state of the US economy. The Federal Reserve at its meeting last month left interest rates at a 45-year low amid widespread expectations that the central bank will keep rates low for a considerable period of time in order to give the economy a chance to gain momentum.

In the latest economic reports, the government reported Friday that retail sales were down for the second straight month in October after a consumer shopping spree over the summer and that prices at the wholesale level rose by 0.8 percent, the largest increase in seven months.

In his comments, Greenspan said that there were many sources of risk and uncertainty in the economy and that it was important for monetary officials to have the benefit of the latest economic research.

"Economic understanding will always move forward, but as we move forward, we learn or relearn how much we still do not understand about the economy," he said.

In one of the papers presented at the conference, two Fed economists, Athanasios Orphanides and John C. Williams, argued that policy mistakes by central banks pursuing an "activist" approach to trying to achieve full employment had turned what would have been a relatively mild period of inflation during the 1970s into a more serious bout of inflation and economic stagnation. *AP*

Miami braces for protesters, disputes at globalization talks

MIAMI—At most free trade meetings, street protesters are the most vocal opponents to global economic expansion. But recently, Brazil and other developing nations have been equally resistant to proposed US policies to ease trade restrictions.

Miami will be the center of all those disputes at talks starting Sunday to create the world's largest free trade area, stretching from Alaska to the southern tip of South America.

As the 34 nations involved in the Free Trade Area of the Americas talks try to resolve their differences in hotel meeting rooms, police are prepared for tens of thousands of protesters.

The FTAA proposes eliminating or reducing trade barriers among all the nations in the Western Hemisphere, except Cuba. The 34-nation bloc would consist of 800 million people and have a collective economic output of more than $14 trillion a year.

The hemisphere's two biggest economies—the United States and Brazil—have been butting heads over the scope of the FTAA.

President George W. Bush's administration refuses to discuss slashing subsidies and tariffs that protect US farmers. US officials argue those trade protections should be negotiated in global trade agreements, not regional ones, because the European Union is the biggest subsidizer of agriculture.

But Brazil and other developing nations contend that their farmers can't compete with US farmers, and are demanding that subsidies and tariffs be placed on the bargaining table. If those demands aren't met, several countries have threatened to stop negotiations on investment and intellectual property rights—areas that are key to US businesses' plans for growth in the region.

AN ANTI-GLOBALIZATION activist shouts slogan during a protest in front of a Gap clothing store in Hollywood, California. The activists are protesting in seven cities across the US before joining a mass protest in Miami at the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) talks scheduled for Nov. 20-21. AFP

High US steel tariffs are also off the table because the White House says American steel makers face unfair competition and foreign dumping, or selling imported products below cost. That stance has angered competitors in the hemisphere and around the world.

Brazil and more than 20 other countries, many from Latin America, first banded together to oppose the United States and Europe during September's World Trade Organization talks in Cancun.

Brought together by their insistence that Europe and the United States do more to cut agricultural subsidies, the group helped bring negotiations to a standstill. In the end, Mexican Foreign Secretary Ernesto Derbez, the meeting's host, called off the talks, saying the WTO's members were too far apart to reach any kind of an agreement.

Many are predicting the same collapse during talks in Miami, even though the so-called Group of 20-plus led by Brazil has lost several members, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Ecuador and Peru.

Still, many Latin American heavyweights, including Brazil and Opec member Venezuela, are actively pushing their point of view.

"The FTAA is a colonialist project," said Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who frequently rails against the dangers of free trade and emphasizes state participation in Venezuela's own economy.

The conflicts put Bush in an awkward position for his reelection campaign next year. *AP*

Microsoft antitrust hearings end in EU

BRUSSELS, Belgium—Dozens of lawyers, economists and technology experts ended three days of arguments Friday about whether Microsoft Corp. has been abusing the dominant position it has with Windows to unfairly muscle its way into new markets.

The hearings with European regulators wrapped up with two of Microsoft's most vociferous detractors taking the stand to bolster charges of abuses in their two key markets: server software and multimedia players.

It was server maker Sun Microsystems Inc. of Santa Clara, California, that filed the original complaint against Microsoft in Brussels five years ago.

The other detractor, Seattle-based RealNetworks Inc., wants Microsoft's media player divorced from the software giant's operating systems. RealNetworks is Microsoft's leading competitor in that realm and was founded by a former Microsoft vice president, Rob Glaser.

The company's representatives were barred by EU rules from publicly discussing the substance of their testimony.

Regulators charge that Microsoft's decision to tie its Media Player into Windows, which runs about 90 percent of desktop computers, "weakens competition on the merits, stifles product innovation and ultimately reduces consumer choice."

They are threatening fines that could reach up to $3 billion, as well as a far-reaching order for Microsoft to strip the multimedia application from Windows to give rivals such as RealNetwork's RealPlayer or Apple's Quicktime more of a chance.

The EU Commission also wants Microsoft to disclose more software code to competitors in the market for low-end servers so they can make products that work as well with Windows as Microsoft's own.

After the proceedings, Microsoft issued a statement that struck a conciliatory tone: "In some areas we have identified opportunities to narrow the differences between us. Microsoft recognizes that as an industry leader it has a special responsibility to consumers, the industry and the commission to work things out." *AP*

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Wall Street faces fresh jitters after 8-mo bull run

NEW YORK—After a strong eight-month run for stocks, Wall Street has become defensive as investors move to consolidate their gains in the belief that the bull market is running out of steam.

The Dow Jones industrials dropped 0.42 percent in the week to Friday to end at 9,768.68 while the tech-heavy Nasdaq took a bigger hit, losing 2.05 percent to 1,930.26.

The broad-market Standard and Poor's 500 index lost 0.27 percent for the week to end Friday at 1,050.35.

Wall Street has been struggling for direction over the past two weeks amid resistance to the 10,000 level for the Dow and 2,000 for the Nasdaq, with investors cautious about prospects after the 30 percent gain for the board market since the lows of March 11.

John Hughes, market analyst with Shields and Co., said investors have a hard time seeing stocks going much higher after the strong run of the past eight months.

"We've come so far since mid-March that it's hard to rally here with the end of the year approaching," he said.

"There's a much bigger incentive to protect profits after such a strong performance than there is to take risks," he added.

Market strategist Hugh Johnson at First Albany said there may be deeper concerns even after strong US economic growth of 7.2 percent in the third quarter, and a tentative revival of the job market.

"Clearly when we see bonds go up in price and stocks go down, investors are worrying about some aspect of the economy," Johnson said.

"Concern about consumer spending slowing was stirred when Wal-Mart said sales were not particularly encouraging and (this sentiment was) supported by retail sales, which were soft." This suggests "that we may not get strong enough growth in earnings to support high stock prices, at least in consumer names," Johnson said.

Johnson said the market direction could become clearer this week.

"(This) week is a crucial week," he said "If we take another step back, I think we're in for a little trouble."

Richard McCabe at Merrill Lynch argued that a correction is the most likely outcome, but does not expect it to be severe.

"The stock market's recent lukewarm response to positive economic and corporate news could be a prelude to an interim correction within an on-going cyclical bull market," he said.

But Ralph Acampora at Prudential Securities said he believes the market is pausing before the next move up in the bull market.

Acampora said the market has been suffering because of a "lethargy" due to "a natural ceiling for technical traders to sell into."

But he maintained: "Intermediate and longer-term outlooks continue to be very positive."

The bond market rallied over the past week, with the yield on the 10-year US Treasury bond dipping to 4.233 percent from 4.450 percent a week earlier and that on the 30-year bond to 5.061 percent from 5.261 percent. Bond yields and prices move in opposite directions. *AFP*

TRADERS work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange as stocks fell as investors reacted coolly to uninspiring jobs and trade data and a disappointing profit forecast from WalMart. REUTERS

Euro zone economy rebounds

BRUSSELS—The euro zone economy grew at its fastest rate in a year in the third quarter and should pick up even more steam in the next six months, according to data on Friday that confirmed economic recovery is finally underway.

The gross domestic product (GDP) of the 12-member bloc rose by 0.4 percent in the third quarter from the previous quarter, reversing the 0.1 percent contraction seen in the previous three months, Eurostat said. It climbed 0.3 percent from a year ago.

It was the biggest quarterly increase since the second quarter of 2002 and even beat consensus forecasts which had been raised to 0.3 percent following encouraging figures from Germany and France on Thursday but before strong Italian data on Friday.

"The different indicators coming up show that the worst is behind us. Hard data seem to be backing the positive survey indicators that we had for some time and now we are looking forward to a better year next year," said European Commission spokesperson on economic affairs, Gerassimos Thomas.

That was also the message from a Commission model used to forecasts quarterly euro zone economic activity, which shows that even stronger growth lies ahead.

It expects the bloc's economy to expand by between 0.2 and 0.6 percent in the fourth quarter of 2003 and by between 0.3 and 0.7 percent in the first quarter of 2004.

The euro took both reports in its stride, with the dollar remaining within 1-1/2 cents of a record low set earlier this year and other markets moved little on the news. *Reuters*

Thai Air posts record profit

BANGKOK—Thai Airways International PCL said on Friday its annual profit rose 22 percent to a record high as a strong baht cut costs and passengers returned after the SARS scare.

The 93 percent state-owned airline said it made a net profit of 12.45 billion baht ($312 million), or 8.90 baht per share, in its financial year to Sept. 30, 2003, the highest in 43 years of operation.

It made 10.18 billion baht profit in the previous year.

The result, announced after the market closed, beat analyst expectations of a net profit of between 10.23 billion baht and 12 billion baht.

The airline made a net loss of 1.27 billion baht in the third quarter ending June as the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome cut air travel.

But the yearly profit of Thai Airways, a barometer for the health of Thailand's multi-billion dollar tourism industry, was helped by a strong baht and a pick up in travel demand as fears of SARS subsided.

Along with other Asian carriers, Thai Airways restored flights and launched promotions to lure customers back. The airline has said passenger traffic returned to normal in July.

Top rival Singapore Airlines reported much stronger than expected profits in the quarter to September last week.

The baht's appreciation—about 9 percent against the dollar during Thai Airways' financial year—against the dollar was behind much of the net profit.

The airline said it had revenue of 134.5 billion baht, up 4 percent year on year, while gains from foreign exchange jumped 73 percent to 4.16 billion baht.

It has about $2 billion in dollar-denominated long-term debt.

Analysts said the outlook for Thai Airways was positive despite competition from budget airlines, most recently Air Asia Aviation, a joint venture between Malaysia's Air Asia and Shin Corp., the telecommunications group founded by Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. *Reuters*

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Notice is hereby given that RICARDO GLENN A. MANZANO, a resident of #13 Highland Drive, Blue Ridge, Quezon City, whose picture appears above, ceased to be connected with PILIPINAS SHELL PETROLEUM CORPORATION (PSPC) effective 08 September 2003. Any transaction entered into by him thereafter, purportedly in behalf of PSPC, shall not be honored by PSPC.

(PDI–Nov. 17, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MA. MELMA SANCHEZ

The public is hereby notified that MS. MA. MELMA SANCHEZ, whose photo appears above, has ceased to be connected with PETPlans, Inc. effective July 2, 2001.

Estafa charges have been filed against her at the Makati City Prosecution Office (IS#03-J-21091-92).

Any transaction made with Ms. Sanchez after the above mentioned date shall not be honored by PETPlans, Inc.

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NFA assures stable rice price, supply

NATIONAL Food Authority Administrator Arthur C. Yap today assured the public of the continued stability in rice prices and supply in the wake of apprehensions aired by some sectors about a possible rice price increase following the stoppage of rice importation by farmers' groups.

Yap said the price of rice is expected to remain stable in the coming months as the country is still undergoing its main harvest which is expected to replenish the national stock, including that of NFA's.

A coalition of farmers groups which include the National Confederation of Irrigators' Association, HUKBALAHAP Veterans, Regional Farmers Action Council and the Philippine Farmers Advisory Board had reportedly filed a petition to extend the rice importation by farmers' cooperatives under the NFA's Farmers as Importer Program (FAI) until February 2004.

The Kaibigan of OCWs, Inc. also expressed fears about a possibility of rice price increase for the same reason, and even citing that local rice production this year is only 5.3 million metric tons.

Yap underscored that the country is presently enjoying good palay harvest due to the absence of strong typhoons and the impact of government programs to increase palay production, including the expansion of hectarage planted to hybrid rice and other high yielding varieties as well as the fertilizer subsidy granted to farmers.

Disputing the reported slump in the country's palay production, Yap cited the Department of Agriculture's projection that this year's harvest will reach 13.46 million metric tons as against last year's 13.27 MMT.

Total rice industry stocks, according to him, stood at 1.7 million metro tons or 34.8 million bags as of first week of November. Of this, 755,500 metric tons belong to household, 402,500 metric tons are commercial stocks while NFA has 580,000 metric tons.

The country's present food security stocks, he noted, is sufficient to last for 66 days based on the current daily rice consumption of 26,300 metric tons and will still be augmented by the current good harvest.

While the volume of rice allocated for the farmers to import under FAI may add to the food security stocks of the country, what is critical according to Yap is their arrival which should not jibe with the peak of the main harvest.

He cited that under the program, the farmers had availed of a total of 398,353 MT of rice for importation, which should arrive in the country on or before September 30, 2003. However, total arrivals as of end of October had been monitored at 148,819 MT leaving a balance of 249,534 MT. As the balance is equivalent to almost 5 million bags of rice, its entry will surely affect the average prevailing rpices of palay, Yap said.

Yap also informed that the NFA is concentrating on local procurement in line with the directive given by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo for the agency to buy local palay and give full support to our farmers.

The NFA presently buys an average of 53,219 bags of palay per day and has already purchased 1.17 million bags for the month of October alone. From January, total palay procurement has reached 3 million bags. The procurement rate is expected to increase as the main harvest enters into the second month.

Aside from allocating P3.7 billion for procurement just for the main harvest, the NFA has also opened some 500 buying stations to serve the farmers selling their produce to the agency.

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dti
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY
PHILIPPINES

IN THE MATTER OF THE PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF THE ANTI-DUMPING CASE AGAINST THE IMPORTATION OF SULFURIC ACID – TG FROM JAPAN
(ANTI-DUMPING CASE NO. 1-2003)

LMG Chemicals Corporation
Protestant
x - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - x

ORDER

On 13 January 2003, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) initiated a preliminary anti-dumping investigation of the petition filed by LMG Chemicals Corporation (LMG) against the importation of Sulfuric Acid from Japan.

The period of investigation was from 1999 to 2001. The observed period of dumping covered imports from 2000 to 2001.

Based on the application of LMG, DTI considered that it has the legal standing to file an anti-dumping protest. During the initiation, PHILPHOS was considered a "captive market" for that portion of PASAR's sulfuric acid production. However, based on the documents submitted by concerned parties during the preliminary investigation, it was recognized that the sales of sulfuric acid by PASAR to PHILPHOS is an arm's length transaction since the terms and conditions of such sale are dictated by market forces. Under the current purchase and supply agreement of PHILPHOS and PASAR, the quantity sold to PHILPHOS vary depending on PASAR'S export commitments while the price takes into account PHILPHOS' cost for producing the product from elemental sulfur. If the parties disagree, PASAR may sell to other buyers while PHILPHOS may buy from other supplier. Thus, PHILPHOS is not deemed a "captive market" of PASAR.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 3 (b) paragraph 4 of the Republic Act No. 8752 (Anti-dumping Act), the preliminary investigation conducted by DTI indicated that LMG, being the sole petitioner of this case, accounts for only 20.69% of the total production of the domestic industry. Thus, LMG's application for the said anti-dumping protest is not considered to have been made "by or on behalf of the domestic industry". The investigation should have not been initiated because the domestic producer expressly supporting the application accounts for less than 25% of the total domestic production of sulfuric acid.

WHEREFORE, IN VIEW THEREOF, as provided under the abovementioned provisions of RA 8752, the Department hereby dismisses the anti-dumping case filed by LMG for lack of merit without prejudice for filing a similar case in the future.

Let the surety bond in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) be immediately released to the protestant since the case is not considered frivolous.

Let copies of this Order be published in two (2) newspapers of general circulation and at the same time individual notices be sent to all interested parties including the government of the country member concerned.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

SO ORDERED.
22 September 2003

MAR ROXAS
Secretary

Department of Education
THIRD ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROJECT
DIVISION PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT
DIVISION OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR
J. Alano St., Pagadian City
☎ (062) 2144-388

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

November 17, 2003

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*

2. The Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following projects and its location to wit:

PACKAGE NO.	PROJECT LOCATION	SCHOOL	TYPE OF WORK		PCAB Category	Date of Opening of Bids
ZDS-NCB-07-1 011A	DUMINGAG – IA Dumingag, Zambo. del Sur	Refer to Bidding Documents for Details	NC-2 CL	R/R-3 CL	Small "B"-ARC	Dec. 17, 2003 10:00 AM
ZDS-NCB-07-2-012B	DUMINGAG – IB Dumingag, Zambo. del Sur	–do–		R/R-9 CL	Small "B"-ARC	Dec. 17, 2003 10:00 AM
ZDS-NCB-08-013	DUMINGAG – II Dumingag, Zambo. del Sur	–do–		R/R-13 CL	Small "B"-ARC	Dec. 17, 2003 2:00 PM
ZDS-NCB-10-1-014A	JOSEFINA – A Josefina, Zambo. del Sur	–do–	NC-2 CL	R/R-5 CL	Small "B"-ARC	Dec. 17, 2003 2:00 PM
ZDS-NCB-12-1-016A	LABANGAN – IA Labangan, Zambo. del Sur	–do–	NC-2 CL	R/R-3 CL	Small "B"-ARC	Dec. 18, 2003 10:00 AM
ZDS-NCB-12-2-016B	LABANGAN – IB Labangan, Zambo. del Sur	–do–		R/R-9 CL	Small "B"-ARC	Dec. 18, 2003 10:00 AM
ZDS-NCB-13-1-018A	LABANGAN – IIA Labangan, Zambo. del Sur	–do–	NC-2 CL	R/R-6 CL	Small "B"-ARC	Dec. 18, 2003 2:00 PM
ZDS-NCB-13-2-019B	LABANGAN – IIB Labangan, Zambo. del Sur	–do–		R/R-10CL	Small "B"-ARC	Dec. 18, 2003 2:00 PM

Notes: NC-new construction; R/R-Repair/Rehabilitation; CL-Classrooms

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at DepEd Division Office of Zamboanga del Sur with office address at J.S. Alano St., Pagadian City for a nonrefundable fee of PhP2,500.00 for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education – Division Office of Zamboanga del Sur, J.S. Alano St., Pagadian City on or before above stated time and and dates, at which they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

5. For clarification, a Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted on December 2, 2003 at 2:00 P.M. at the office of the Schools Division Superintendent, Division of Zamboanga del Sur, J. Alano St., Pagadian City.

(Sgd.) VISMINDA G. SERRATO
Chairperson
Division Bids and Awards Committee – District 1

(PDI–Nov. 17, 2003)

Department of Education
THIRD ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROJECT
DIVISION PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT
DIVISION OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR
J. Alano St., Pagadian City
☎ (062) 2144-388

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

November 17, 2003

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*

2. The Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following projects and its location to wit:

PACKAGE NO.	PROJECT LOCATION	SCHOOL	TYPE OF WORK		PCAB Category	Date of Opening of Bids
ZDS-NCB-04-1 024A	DIMATALING – A Dimataling, Zambo. del Sur	Refer to Bidding Documents for Details	NC-1CL	R/R-6 CL	Small "B"-ARC	Dec. 17, 2003 10:00 AM
ZDS-NCB-05-1-026A	DINAS – A Dinas, Zambo. del Sur	–do–		R/R-9 CL	Small "B"-ARC	Dec. 17, 2003 10:00 AM
ZDS-NCB-14-1-026A	LAKEWOOD – A Lakewood, Zambo. del Sur	–do–	NC-2 CL	R/R-4 CL	Small "B"-ARC	Dec. 17, 2003 2:00 PM
ZDS-NCB-18-2 032A	MARGOSATUBIG – A Margosatubig, Zambo. del Sur	–do–	NC-2 CL	R/R-5 CL	Small "B"-ARC	Dec. 17, 2003 2:00 PM
ZDS-NCB-29-1 004A	TIGBAO – A Tigbao, Zambo. del Sur	–do–	NC-3 CL	R/R-3 CL	Small "B"-ARC	Dec. 18, 2003 10:00 AM
ZDS-NCB 32 1 036A	V. SAGUN – A V. Sagun, Zambo. del Sur	–do–	NC-1 CL	R/R-5 CL	Small "B"-ARC	Dec. 18, 2003 10:00 AM

Notes: NC-new construction; R/R-Repair/Rehabilitation; CL-Classrooms

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at DepEd Division Office of Zamboanga del Sur with office address at J.S. Alano St., Pagadian City for a nonrefundable fee of PhP2,500.00 for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education – Division Office of Zamboanga del Sur, J.S. Alano St., Pagadian City on or before above stated time and and dates, at which they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

5. For clarification, a Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted on December 2, 2003 at 2:00 P.M. at the office of the Schools Division Superintendent, Division of Zamboanga del Sur, J. Alano St., Pagadian City.

(Sgd.) DR. BRICCIO S. MALINIT
Chairperson
Division Bids and Awards Committee – District 2

(PDI–Nov. 17, 2003)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED COOPERATIVE BANK OF DAVAO ORIENTAL

1. Starting November 18, 2003, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed Cooperative Bank of Davao Oriental (CBDO) Head Office and Mati Branch.

2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the premises of the said closed bank on the following dates, to file claims for insured deposits:

CBDO Banking Unit	Servicing Site	Servicing Dates
Head Office	Market Site, Lupon Davao Oriental	Nov. 18 to Dec. 11, 2003
Mati Branch -with extension office at Sigaboy (now Gov. Generoso), Davao Oriental	Limatoc, Mati Davao Oriental	Nov. 18 to Dec. 11, 2003

PDIC representatives are stationed at the premises of the closed bank on the abovecited dates to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors during office hours, Monday to Friday.

After the said dates, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC Office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., or by mail addressed to-

The Manager
Claims Processing Department
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
2228 Chino Roces Avenue
1231 Makati City

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims:

   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposits.
   b. Valid identification documents (ID) bearing the depositor's signature.

   Other documents may be required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

4. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591, as amended, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Cooperative Bank of Davao Oriental is on **April 09, 2005**. After **April 09, 2005**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI–Nov. 17 & 18, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nos.: 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc. 6592
website: www.afp.mil.ph
e-mail: cosb.j9@afp.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid in the 2-Stage bid process for the Phase I Upgrade of One (1) BO-105C Helicopter of the Philippine Navy with an approved budget of Fifty Million Six Thousand and Four Hundred Pesos (Php 50,006,400.00) chargeable against the AFP Modernization Program CY 2000 funds.

Only bids from entities authorized by the appropriate civil aviation authority, which make, develop, fabricate, assemble, build, upgrade or otherwise produce the BO-105C helicopter, shall be entertained.

1st stage bid documents will only be available for issuance starting **November 11, 2003** until **November 26, 2003** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00)**, which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the 1st stage bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **November 18, 2003** at **2:00 PM** (local time) at the **Silid Panday Pira**, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

The Bidder shall be allowed to inspect the BO-105C helicopter and the Naval Air Group facilities upon purchase of bid documents until the deadline of submission of the 1st stage envelopes.

The deadline for submission of the 1st stage envelopes is on **December 2, 2003** at **9:00 AM** (local time) to be followed by the Opening of Bids at the Silid Panday Pira. Only those bidders found to be eligible shall be allowed to participate in the 2nd stage bidding activities.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

FOR THE CHAIRMAN, BAC:

(original signed)
JORGE G NECESITO
Rear Admiral AFP
Vice Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Nov. 11 & 17, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nos.: 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc. 6592
website: www.afp.mil.ph
e-mail: cosb.j9@afp.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid in the 2-Stage bid process for the Phase II Upgrade of One (1) BO-105C Helicopter of the Philippine Navy with an approved budget of Thirty-Three Million and Six Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 33,600,000.00) chargeable against the AFP Modernization Program CY 2002 funds.

Only bids from entities authorized by the appropriate civil aviation authority, which make, develop, fabricate, assemble, build, upgrade or otherwise produce the BO-105C helicopter, shall be entertained.

1st stage bid documents will only be available for issuance starting **November 11, 2003** until **November 26, 2003** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Sixty Pesos (Php 3,360.00)**, which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the 1st stage bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of said documents

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FOR THE CHAIRMAN, BAC:

(original signed)
JORGE G NECESITO
Rear Admiral AFP
Vice Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Nov. 11 & 17, 2003)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2003

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The Diocesan Administrator, the Clergy, Nuns and the Christian Faithful

of the **Roman Catholic Diocese of San Pablo**

and the **Family, Relatives and Friends**

announce with deep sorrow the demise of

REV. MSGR. MAXIMINO DE LOS SANTOS MAÑALAC, H.P.

(08 June 1924 – 15 November 2003)

His remains lie in state at Sto. Sepulcro Parish Church, Landayan, San Pedro, Laguna.

Interment is on November 18, 2003, Tuesday at Everest Hills, Susana Heights, Tunasan, Muntinlupa City after the 9:00 a.m. Concelebrated Funeral Mass.

"We walk by faith not by sight... confident and well-pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:7-8

JUSTO "TOTOY" M. DE JESUS, JR.

(of Cavite City and Cubao, QC)

Peacefully joined his Creator on November 16, 2003 at the age of 85.

He is survived by his loving wife **JULIANA**; children **RAQUEL, BENJAMIN & RUBY, GABRIEL & ALICIA, DORCAS & BERNIE, REBECCA, RUTH**; grandchildren; brother **RAMON**, sisters **ESTRELLA & NATIVIDAD**, nephews and nieces.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc. 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Makati City.

Interment will be announced later.

We Lovingly Remember Our Dear

FEVI V. PURISIMA

on the 14th Anniversary of her birth to eternal life (November 17, 1989)

Husband Fidel; children Cesar, Dulia and Grace; sons-in-law and grandchildren request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Masses will be offered in the following churches:

Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage, *Gen. Santos City*
St. Jude Parish, *Warrensville, Ohio*
Sacred Heart Parish, *Kamuning, Quezon City*
St. Joseph's Convent of Perpetual Adorations, *Hemady St., Quezon City*
St. James The Great Parish, *Alabang, Muntinlupa City*
St. Jerome and Sta. Susana Parish, *Alabang, Muntinlupa City*

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."

— Psalm 21:15

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

CLASSIFIEDS

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National Transmission Corporation
Visayas-Operation and Maintenance
Banilad Power Complex Nasipit, Talamban C.C.
Tel. No. 346-3427, 346-9449

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANS VIS 2003-14

Pre-bid Conference : November 28, 2003 @ 2:00 PM at the District 2 Office
Bidding Dates : December 9, 2003 @ 2:00 PM at the District 2 Office

The National Transmission Corporation, Administration Division-Visayas invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on (pls. see above schedule) to be opened publicly at Transco Bidding Room, Banilad Power Complex, Nasipit, Talamban, Cebu City for the following requirements:

PR NO.	DESCRIPTION	QTY /UM	APPROVED BUDGET (ABC) (in pesos)
PTOM-03-073 (repub)	Plain round bars, 12mm diameter x 6 meters, grade 40	8207 lengths	1,185,501.15
D2CB-2003-161	Switchgear, 17.5 kV	2 sets	2,800,000.00
D2CA-2003-100	Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) Camera	1 set	850,000.00

All Bids should be within the Approved Budget of Contract to be Bid in order to qualify.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available starting November 17, 2003, at the Materials Management Services Section from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday to Friday, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 200.00/schedule and presentation of TIN/Supplier's Number (DCE). Last day of issuance of bidding documents will be on November 28, 2003.

For further inquiries please contact Mr. J.D. Rosell thru telephone number (032) 346-9449 or fax number (032) 346-3427.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order 40 and as amended by Republic Act 9184.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, waive any defects therein and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of BAC's action.

(Sgd.) **OCTAVIO G. BRIONES**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI–Nov. 17 & 24, 2003)

NMC GROUP OF COMPANIES

To Our Valued Clients and Friends

We are pleased to inform you of our new office address and our new trunkline number:

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7th FLOOR, TIMES PLAZA
U.N. CORNER TAFT AVENUE
ERMITA, MANILA 1000

TRUNKLINE : 527-5555
FAX : 521-0149

Thank you for your continued patronage.

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MARINE FUELS PHILIPPINES, INC.
ROADLINK SOLUTIONS, INC.

MAGSAYSAY MARITIME CORPORATION
SHIP MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
EMB Building, DENR Compound Visayas Ave. Diliman Quezon City
Tels. 927-15-17/18, 426-43-32, 928-12-15, 925-53-24, 920-22-41/47

NOTICE TO PUBLIC HEARING

On the PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (PEIA) of the TUBAY AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING CENTER PROJECT of the JC Agri. Development Incorporated to be located in Municipality of Tubay Agusan del Norte.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed Tubay Agricultural Processing Center Project to attend a Public Hearing on December 12, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. at the Barangay Hall, Barangay Doña Rosario, Tubay, Agusan del Norte

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should register in person at the public hearing venue or by mail with the EMB at DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or email at emb_central@yahoo.com

Individual and/or organizations may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper submitted to the EMB (Central Office and/or Region XIII) on or before December 12, 2003 or within 5 days after the hearing

For more details, please contact the EIA Division of EMB through Engr. Elsie P. Cezar or Ms. Jannish at telephone numbers (02) 920-2240 to 41

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UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES BAGUIO
Governor Pack Road, Baguio City, Telefax: (074) 442-3888
www.upb.edu.ph; bac@upb.edu.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A FOUR-STOREY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE COMPLEX BUILDING LOCATED AT GOVERNOR PACK ROAD, BAGUIO CITY, WITH AN APPROVED AGENCY BUDGET OF PHP13,500,000.00 FROM U.P. SYSTEM REPROGRAMMED FUNDS)

The U.P. Baguio Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites PCAB-licensed contractors belonging to at least Medium A Category to apply for eligibility and to bid for the contractor of the above-cited project, in accordance with the IRR of Republic Act No. 9184.

Please submit a letter of intent (LOI) to the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Administration not later than December 7, 2003 and obtain a checklist of the required documents and eligibility criteria upon submission of the LOI.

ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING SCHEDULE

1. Submission of eligibility documents – November 24-December 7, 2003. Documents may be submitted to the Budget Office c/o Mr. Remigio Natnat.
2. Issuance of bid documents – December 8-19. Bid documents may be obtained from the Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 5,000.00 (Look for Mr. Jun Movilla).
3. Pre-Bid Conference – January 5, 2004, 9:00 a.m. Chancellor's Conference Room, (Eligible applicants are required to attend.)
4. Last day for submitting sealed bids and opening of bids – January 19, 2004. Bids must be received at the Chancellor's Office not later than 8:30 a.m. Bids submitted after 8:30 shall be automatically disqualified. Opening of bids starts at 9:00 a.m. Attendance is required.
5. Bid Evaluation – January 20-23, 2004
6. Post-Qualification – January 26-31
7. Award of Contract – February 1-6

The U.P. Baguio reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal is deemed the most advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) BENITO C. CARDENAS
Vice-Chancellor for Administration

(PDI – November 17, 2003)

2ND INVITATION TO UNDERTAKE THE PROPOSED ISABEL, LEYTE, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, REGION VIII, RECLAMATION PROJECT UNDER A JOINT VENTURE ARRANGEMENT

The Municipality of Isabel, Leyte (Municipality) is inviting interested parties to submit proposal to undertake the reclamation and development of about One Hundred Twenty Eight (128) hectares of foreshore and offshore areas (Project) along Dupong Bay, Isabel, Leyte intended for mixed use development such as commercial, industrial, residential, among others.

The Project shall be undertaken on a joint venture arrangement with the Municipality whereby the Proponent/Developer shall advance all costs of reclamation and development and shall be paid in the form of land rental or land to be reclaimed.

The Proponent/Developer must show proof of its legal, technical and financial capability and must submit the following pre-qualification documents attached to its letter of intent addressed to the Municipality to undertake the Project.

1. Non-Refundable Filing Fee in the amount of P22,000.00 inclusive of VAT payable to the Municipality in the form of cash, manager's check or cashier's check;
2. Original copy of SEC Certification of Good Standing/Record;
3. Complete set of legal documents of the organization, i.e., Company Profile for Principal Proponent and each firm and members if consortium, SEC Registration, Articles of Incorporation & By-Laws, and Company Profile, Business Registration and License Papers;
4. Audited Financial Statements for the last three (3) years (balance sheet and income statement) of Principal Proponent duly filed/stamped received by BIR;
5. Affidavit of Undertaking that if awarded the contract, to provide financing for the Project estimated to be not less than P1,587 Billion.
6. Credit lines in specific amount issued and certified by reputable banks and financing institution/s.

All qualified Proponent(s)/Developer(s) shall be advised to submit project Pre-Feasibility Study and Financial Proposal which shall be the basis of award by Municipality of the Project.

Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent to undertake the Project including required attachments shall be on December 18, 2003 at the office of the Mayor, Isabel, Leyte Tel. Nos. (053) 337-2053, not later than 5:00 p.m.

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. FUENTES, JR.
Municipal Mayor

(PDI–November 16, 17 & 18, 2003)

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R.I.P.

Josefa Benitez-Trinidad

(Beloved widow of Don ANSELMO TRINIDAD)

Peacefully joined her Creator on the 15th of November 2003
at the age of 94.

Her children **Dr. Angelita T. Reyes** and **Jose Reyes** (†), **Atty. Josefina T. Lichauco** and **Eduardo Lichauco** (†), **Milagros** and **Antonio Puyat, Lourdes T. Ocampo** and **Edgardo Ocampo** (†), **Anselmo, Jr.** and **Sylvia Trinidad**; her thirty grandchildren and thirty-three great grandchildren, request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her beloved soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla de la Virgen & Capilla del Señor of the Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park. Daily novena masses will be said at the abovementioned venue at 7 p.m.

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 18, 2003 after the 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass at the main church.

Our Beloved

TAN CHUA KING HA

Peacefully joined her Creator
on November 12, 2003 at the age of 92.

Her late busband **Tan Yan Kee** (†), loving children **Lucio Chua Tan**, **Tan Eng Chan**, **Mariano Tanenglian**, **Harry Chua Tan**, **Frank Chan**, **Shirley Tan-Chua**, **Sally Tan-Cheung** and spouses, grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends enjoin the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Chapels 1, 2 and 3,
Funeraria Paz (New Building), Araneta Avenue,
Quezon City.

Her remains will leave Funeraria Paz on Tuesday,
November 18, 2003, 11 am. Cremation will follow
at the Crematorium of the Chinese Cemetery.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

People, Events & Products

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2003

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Say hello to Globe Telcard convenience

GLOBE Telcard, the value-added payphone card available in P100, P150 and P200 denominations, proudly introduces two exciting promos that will bring joy to all its loyal users as well as new consumers.

Globe Telcard is giving away hundreds of thousands of pesos worth of prizes in the Globe Telcard "CASH-Swerte Na, Pa-KOTSE Pa!" raffle promo. You may win a brand new Toyota Vios or be one of three winners of DMS Motorcycles or be P10,000 richer. There are three easy ways of joining. Together with your name, address and signature, put either one P200 Globe Telcard, two P150 Globe Telcards or three P100 Globe Telcards in an envelope and mail to CASH-Swerte Na, Pa-KOTSE Pa!, PO Box 173, Greenhills Post Office 1502, Metro Manila, Philippines or drop in drop boxes located at Globelines Payments and Services centers and selected dealers nationwide. There will be two draws, with the first one happening on Dec. 13, and the grand draw on Feb. 14, 2004.

The better alternative to communicating with friends and loved ones, Globe Telcard offers unrivalled convenience and flexibility. Better than cellular phones because there is no possibility of low batteries or weak signals, Globe Telcard now offers its lowest rates ever. Now you can make local calls for as low as P1 for the first minute and P0.50 per succeeding minutes. IDD calls are $0.32 per minute, and calls to cell phones are P8 per minute, almost P3 cheaper than others.

With over 6,500 sites nationwide, Globe Telcard allows you to move freely and call anybody anywhere in the country and abroad. So get connected now and enjoy a happier and more colorful life with Globe Telcard, your pocket-friendly payphone card.

MOCHA BLENDS BREWS IN CAINTA

New coffee chain Mocha Blends recently inaugurated a new shop at the Shell Gas Station along Marcos Highway in Cainta. The opening forms part of an aggressive expansion program being undertaken by the coffee chain, eyeing 30 operational outlets by the end of this year. Shown are the management team of the new establishment and Mocha Blends officials led by managing director Chito dela Cruz (right). The shop offers over 20 concoctions of hot and cold drinks and a fine selection of gourmet food.

METROBANK, ANZ IN JV

Metrobank, the country's largest bank, and Australia New Zealand Banking Group Ltd (ANZ), a leading financial services company based in Melbourne, are poised to make leaps and bounds in the Philippine credit card industry following a joint venture agreement they signed recently. ANZ, one of the biggest players in the international credit card arena with 3.8 million cards on issue, will infuse its expertise into Metrobank Card Corp. Shown is ANZ chief executive officer John McFarlane and Metrobank president Antonio Abacan sealing the agreement with a handshake.

Nat'l leadership confab slated Dec. 1

THE INTERNATIONAL Movement of Development Managers (IMDM) hosts a National Leadership Conference slated from Dec. 1 to 3 at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Conference Center, SGV Hall, Makati City.

Titled "Building a Community of Leaders and Organizations Through Good Governance", the conference aims to promote sustainable growth and development by responding to issues in the public and private sectors.

Many issues facing Filipinos today can be addressed by putting to the fore leaders and role models who will effect social change by serving for the common good, educating and empowering people to act.

The conference unites leaders and managers from government and NGOs, the corporate sector, media, the academe and civil society in promoting realistic, positive change through development management and good governance.

The IMDM is an organization composed of graduates of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Master in Development Management (MDM) program.

The National Leadership Conference is organized in cooperation with Winning Ideas and Strategies in Development Management (Wisdom) and GreenEarth Systems Corp. For inquiries, call the IMDM secretariat at 753-2006.

FVR RECEIVES PEACE AWARD

Former President Fidel V. Ramos, now chair of the RP Development Foundation, receives the prestigious Albert Einstein Peace Award from the International Association of Educators for World Peace, a UN-NGO and recipient of the United Nations Messenger of Peace. Shown, from left, are former Rep. Romulo Lumauig, Cory Quirino, , Dr. Lily R. Canlas Ph.D., president of Concep Inc, Dr. Lolita Lizano Ph.D, broadcast executive of PBS, and Dr. Josef de Ubaldo DSc, national chancellor of IAEWP-Philippines.

CAFÉ PURO SUPPORTS THE 'ICEMAN'

Café Puro signed up support for Mika 'Iceman' Immonen in the recently concluded 2003 World Pool Championships at the Cardiff International Arena. Considered one of the best pool players in the world, he was also the 2001 World Pool Champion. With Mika during the contract signing is Grace Huang Mercado, marketing services manager of Commonwealth Foods Inc, manufacturer of Café Puro.

TOP UNIT MANAGER

Philam Asset Management Inc (Pami) chair Jose L. Cuisia Jr (2nd from left) and president and CEO Rex Ma. Mendoza (2nd from right) presents the award to Rosario Salientes of Salientes-Gonzalez Associates as the top unit manager for 2002 during awarding ceremonies at The Westin Philippine Plaza, Pasay City. Also shown are Pami vice president for sales and distribution Alijeffty Gonzales (left) and senior manager for Metro Manila sales Ricky So (right).

EARTH+STYLE TOP SELLER AWARDED CAR

Earth+Style Corp, a leading lifestyle property developer with projects in Laguna and Cavite, awarded a brand new Toyota Revo to its top seller for the first half of 2003 at its recently held 'Celebration!' sales rally event at the Megatrade Hall in Megamall. Yolly Busto (center) of MJ's Star Group is shown receiving the keys to her vehicle from (from left) Earth+Style's deputy chief operating officer Arnold F. Acero, sales management group head Aidee T. Tejano, president-CEO Victor H. Manarang and chief operating officer Jacinto C. Ng Jr.

ProductFILES

The Only One is Sharon's scent

THERE'S only one Megastar, Sharon Cuneta. Her classic style, beauty, and elegance are admired by generations of women. From being a teenage idol to an entertainment industry icon, she has managed to excel at all her endeavors. Sharon has everything most women want to be fulfilled: a beautiful family, a thriving career, and a healthy attitude about her success. She is unique in that she continues to evolve and develop through the years. Like fine wine, she only gets better and better.

Celebrity Secrets' The Only One captures Sharon's timeless and unique quality. It is a remarkable blend of spice, violets, lilac, and musk. The inspirational fragrance invokes the Megastar's distinctive personality and sensibility. Now you can smell and feel like your idol.

Spritz the 75-ml Body Spray all over your body. The 10-ml carry-anywhere Fragrance Rollette lets you dab on the scent at your convenience. So you can enjoy and experience the remarkable fragrance in two ways. You too can imbibe the Megastar's uniqueness, and your friends are sure to notice the difference!

Celebrity Secrets' The Only One is available at Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines (formerly known as House of Sara Lee) and authorized Sara Lee dealers nationwide. For inquiries, call hotline 810-5402, or e-mail customer.relations@saraleedirectselling.ph.

PCs, phones for grabs

SIXTEEN personal computers with printers, 9 Nokia 3300s, cash and Planet Sports gift certificates are the prizes up for grabs if you use Pacific Internet's E-Volve Prepaid card from now until Dec. 17. With Pacific Internet Philippines' E-Volve Prepaid Internet card, not only will you get quality value-for-money service and enjoy value-added benefits such as 24-hour technical support and the MyPacific personal webpage, you also get a chance to win these fantastic prizes.

It's easy to join. Just fill up the personal information sheet that is handed out upon every purchase of a Pacific Internet E-Volve prepaid Internet card, and place it in a legal-sized enveloped with two E-Volve 100 cards or one E-Volve 300 card. Note that only Pacific Internet E-Volve cards that were first logged in during the promo period will be qualified to join in the raffle draw. Drop your entries at the marked boxes found in participating outlets, or send them to E-Volve & Win, care of Pacific Internet Philippines, consumer sales and marketing group, 19th floor Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The deadline for entries for this nationwide raffle will be on Dec. 29.

Get connected through the fastest and most reliable prepaid Internet card available in the country today. For more information, call Pacific Internet Philippines' 24-hour customer service hotline at 918-5011, or log on to www.pacificprepaid.net.ph.

This promo is also made possible by Planet Sports, distributors of Nike, Reebok, Adidas and Puma products. Winners of the Planet Sports gift certificates can redeem their prizes at any of the following outlets: Nike Stadium, The Athlete's Foot, Planet Sports, Kidz Station, New Balance, Puma and Arena.

Prestige Cars' free diagnostic service

TO ENSURE that your BMW is in top shape for the holidays, Prestige Cars' BMW (Makati) is offering free diagnostic service for all weekends of November, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The comprehensive diagnostic service includes engine check, electrical/mechanical check (lights, switches, battery, fuses), visual check (body, paint, exterior/interior), brake test as well as checks on tire condition and suspension. Prestige Cars BMW (Makati) conforms to strict global standards of the BMW Group. Its professional service technicians and service equipment like the Group Tester One (GT-1) and the DIS-Plus diagnostic system guarantees that your BMW vehicle will operate optimally throughout its service life. For smooth, worry-free driving with your BMW this coming holiday season, visit Prestige Cars BMW (Makati) at 2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City or call the Prestige Cars BMW service department at 892-9630 or 892-8127.

Clips

Recruiting in a business environment

IN A business environment characterized by fierce competition, organizations need to recruit good people-better than the people their competitors hire. Given the vast job market and the costs of faulty recruitment continuously increasing, the challenge is to get it right the first time. Let your organization rise to the challenge. Let your HR and non-HR people attend this seminar on Tuesday, Nov. 18, 1 to 5 p.m. at Traders Hotel Manila, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. The seminar will have as its resource lecturer Jun Mendoza, seasoned HR consultant. This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles Inc, a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development. For more information, call Mercy at 638-7719.

HR forum Nov. 19

THE ASIAN Association of School Human Resource Management and Development Practitioners Inc (AASHPI) announced it would hold its 4th annual convention on Nov. 19 and 20 at the Heritage Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Centering on the theme "Human Resource Competencies in Institutions in a Globalized Economy", the two-day convention aims to enhance and advance the science, art and best practices in human resource management in the Philippines and Asia through in-depth discussions of topics on people management and development, organizational productivity, technological and career systems advancement, and institutional culture-building. For more details, call AASHPI at 820-8702, 820-8714 and look for Jesell, Choy, Jocelyn and Badette, fax 820-8709, 820-8715 or e-mail jocelynt@sville.edu.ph, genel@info.com.ph.

'November to Remember'

IT'S a month-long "November to Remember" celebration at Eastwood City Walk's Fuente Circle as it treats its habitués to a dining experience made even more special with live music performed by today's hottest bands. Fuente Circle plays host to a wide variety of dining places specializing in Asian, Caribbean, Western and fusion music. From 8:30 p.m. onwards on weekdays, diners will be treated to a blend of good food and good music at Amoeba Music Recall, Bargo, Blue Onion, Cable Bar, Café Havana, Chicago Roadhouse, El Botin, Ipanema, Kyo, Mama Rosa, Montego Jamaican Resto Bar, Sari-Sari Cafeteria and West Lake. Mondays go retro with Fat Sessions dishing out favorite tunes from the '70s and '80s. Tuesday evenings take on a Latin flavor as Sabor Latino heats up the chilly nights. On Wednesdays, Mute Madness takes center stage. Thursdays showcase non-stop pop music as Pop Cycle performs. Friday evenings have soulful R&B on the menu with Twisted Pair. Eastwood City Walk is located at E. Rodriguez Jr Avenue, C-5, Quezon City. For more information, call 867-8913 to 17.

FBI to probe RP suspects in Internet credit card fraud

Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

THE UNITED States' Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) will join the examination of three Filipinos allegedly involved in the defrauding of a Hong Kong-based website using credit card information stolen from American cardholders.

Philippine authorities through the National Bureau of Investigation arrested Zandro del Pilar, Marichu Villegas and Dante Castro based on a complaint filed by Paul Hubbard, country manager of Total Solutions Software, a firm running the YesPinoy.com website.

Del Pilar was eventually released following a court order, while Villegas and Castro posted bail but are scheduled to appear before a Philippine court to face criminal charges, Hubbard told Infotech.

Hubbard said the US Embassy in Manila has asked YesPinoy.com for some information about the case because it involved stolen credit card information of American citizens.

"Just like the NBI, they also want to find out how the suspects got hold of these information," added Hubbard.

The three Filipinos allegedly used credit card information of American cardholders to purchase a debit card called "Smart Money," which in turn was used to purchase goods in the Philippines.

YesPinoy.com allows people from abroad to send money to their families back in the Philippines using Smart Money cards. Smart Money is a debit card designed for electronic micropayments.

The suspects' activities were first monitored starting Oct. 16, 2003.

By Oct. 26, YesPinoy.com reported the unusual transactions being made by the suspects to the NBI after gathering enough evidence to entrap the three suspects.

Castro was arrested initially as he posed as a buyer named "Tony Perez." His arrest led the authorities to Villegas, and alleged mastermind Del Pilar.

Villegas implicated Del Pilar, saying that Del Pilar was supplying her the stolen credit card information used to purchase the Smart Money cards.

During a briefing last week, Hubbard said that the suspects were able to defraud YesPinoy.com of about P15,000.

"This seems small but this is because we caught them early. They could have gotten more," he told local reporters.

The suspects are charged with violating Republic Act 8484 on credit card fraud, the Electronic Commerce Act of 2000, and falsification of public records.

The suspects were said to have used at least four to five stolen credit card information.

Local e-commerce website seeks help from authorities

Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

MYAYALA.COM, a Philippine-based e-commerce site, is seeking help from local authorities after reading about the recent capture of three Filipinos allegedly involved in defrauding a Hong Kong-based website, a member of the company told Infotech.

The local e-commerce website indicated that it has also fell victim to fraudulent transactions, and is now seriously considering going after the online culprits.

"We've been monitoring a lot of fraudulent transactions. Some of them were stopped by us but some were able to pass through our website because they were able to supply the documents we needed to verify their transactions," said Manny Rodriguez, operations team leader of myAyala.com.

Rodriguez said that the fraudulent transactions were made using stolen credit card information of cardholders living in the United States.

MyAyala.com orders come mostly from the US.

Body tasked to resolve '.ph' issues to convene this week

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ADVISORY board that has been tasked to resolve issues surrounding the ".ph" Internet domain name will convene this week for the first time to come up with guidelines that will be used in regulating the domain.

Information Technology and E-Commerce Council (ITECC) executive director Virgilio Peña said in an interview that the seven-man board would be putting their heads together to come up with possible policies that would govern the ".ph" domain.

Also, the National Telecommunications Commission will be holding a public hearing before the end of the month to get inputs from industry stakeholders.

A Sept. 2 memorandum from Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo led to the formation of the advisory board, with the NTC serving in an oversight capacity.

The memorandum stemmed from complaints by Internet service providers that registration and policy-making for the sovereign domain ".ph" was monopolized by former Silicon Valley employee Jose Emmanuel Disini.

The ".ph" domain is the Internet code assigned to represent the Philippines. In effect, agencies that wish to be identified with the country attaches this domain name to its universal resource locator (URL) or web address.

Aside from the familiar domain name extensions like ".com," there also exist country-code top-level domain (ccTLD) names like ".uk" for the United Kingdom or ".ph" for the Philippines.

For years, Disini has been managing the ".ph" domain. As the only one managing the country's domain registry, he is the registry, registrar and the policy-maker all rolled into one.

Because of this, local ISPs brought this issue up with the government, seeking clear-cut rules that would regulate the domain registry to prevent a seeming monopoly.

NTC deputy commissioner Jorge Sarmiento said in an earlier interview that the National Economic and Development Authority had given various options for the regulation of the country's domain registry.

These options included the separation of the policy-making functions from the registry and registrar functions as well as the assignment of the policy-making function to either the ITECC or the yet-to-be-formed Information and Communications Technology Commission with the NTC as the oversight body.

Peña said the advisory board would like to meet with Disini to get his feedback on what the government wanted to do, with regard to the ".ph" domain.

"We had an informal meeting with Disini before, but we have not yet set a formal meeting with him. We officially communicated to him the action plan, which included the formation of the advisory board," he said.

Gov't agencies ordered to interconnect with Malacañang

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo ordered all government agencies including local government units on Wednesday to interconnect their existing information systems with Malacañang to allow "timely" decision-making and policy formulation.

In Administrative Order No. 86, Ms Macapagal directed all government entities to link with the newly established Office of the President Executive Information System (OPEIS) to specifically help address poverty issues and strengthen the bureaucracy.

"The government recognizes the vital role of communications and information in nation building and has directed the appropriate use of ICT as a priority initiative of the bureaucracy in support of the fight against poverty, effective bureaucracy and the strengthening of the Republic," the President said in a statement.

Ms Macapagal acknowledged the need to have access to timely information resources from all government entities because of the critical nature of her work.

Under the new administrative, order, the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) will be tasked to run and maintain the OPEIS.

ThePMS was also given the right to call upon any government agency for cooperation and assistance that is necessary in the upgrading of information of the OPEIS.

The new government directive did not specify when the OPEIS will be put in place.

It said, however, that the OPEIS will allow the government to access vital information from any government agency or local government unit, which will be used to bolster its anti-poverty campaign, and other initiatives.

The Malacañang-run information system is part of the government's vision of an electronic bureaucracy.

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10	8	8	8	8	8	8
11	9	9	9	9	9	9
12	10	10	10	10	10	10
13	11	11	11	11	11	11
14	12	12	12	12	12	12

Jump to the end of a range of data in Microsoft Excel

By Jerry Liao

HERE'S a trick that will allow you to move your cell pointer to the end of a range of data in MS Excel with the use of only your mouse:

1) For example, if your data range is from C3:H14, position your cell pointer to cell C3

2) Double-click the right border of the active cell. Your cell pointer will directly jump to cell H3

3) Double-click the bottom border of the active cell. Your cell pointer will directly jump to cell H14

4) Double-click the left border of the active cell. Your cell pointer will directly jump to cell C14

5) Double-click the top border of the active cell. Your cell pointer will directly jump to cell C3

POWERTIPS

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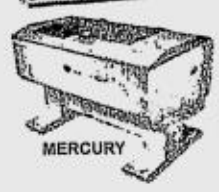

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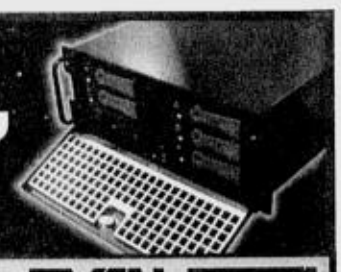

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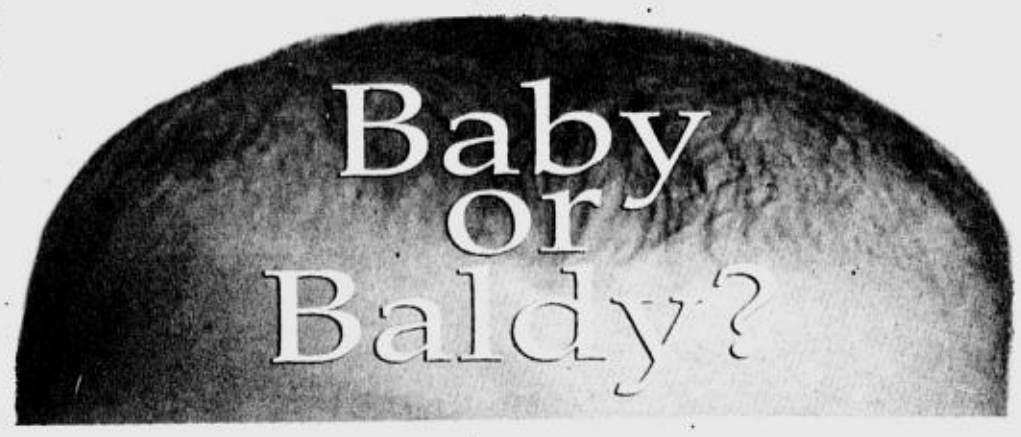
INFOTECH

Editor Leo Magno

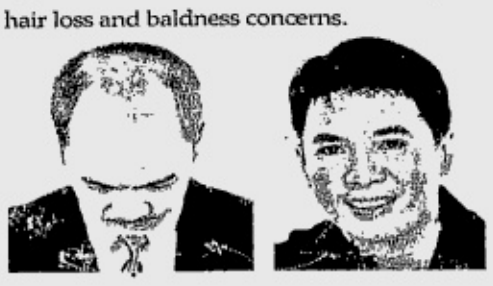


Can't tell the difference?

One thing's for sure: the only people who can get away with a bald head are babies! But at your age, you only look older and less attractive. If you're single and rapidly losing hair, when was the last time you went out on a date and met a woman who didn't glance at your shiny pate?

You can change all that...by changing your bald look for a more handsome one with more hair! Svenson International understands how baldness can affect your personal appearance and how having more hair again can make a big difference. We offer not just any hair replacement that will simply hide your baldness, but more hair that looks and feels as if it's a natural part of you and not something you wear. You'll feel naturally at ease using our advanced non-surgical hair replacement.

Don't be a big baby when it comes to baldness. Call Svenson and have a FREE CONSULTATION where we will discuss your hair loss and baldness concerns.



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Sun sheds light on next-generation computing plans

Sun Microsystems is betting the farm on chip multi-threading and throughput computing as rival chip maker intel encroaches into 64-bit territory

By Leo Magno

COMPUTING demands are getting bigger and more complex as enterprises continue to handle more data in the terabyte range, and Sun Microsystems is laying its plans to survive the next wave of high-performance computing requirements.

Sun was the pioneer in 64-bit computing in the early '90s, and now its aging SPARC processor platform needs an overhaul a decade after it first came out in the market. Sun also needs this boost since microprocessor giant Intel is also making its bid into 64-bit computing with the Itanium processor. Unknown to many, Sun is the second largest chipmaker next to Intel.

Sun believes the future will be dominated by throughput computing, where application throughput across the network is enhanced alongside the development of faster chips which process several threads at once.

"The answer is chip multi-threading," said Larry Singer, senior vice president for global marketing strategies at Sun. "Instead of hierarchical sequential computing, you can jump from one thread to another. So each chip can handle multiple threads at once."

For non-geeks, Singer means that today's processors are slow by design because each thread or instruction carried out by the chip happens one after the other, or in a sequence. Therefore, the second thread cannot be performed until the first thread is finished, and the third thread cannot commence until the second one is done, and so forth.

Intel tried to solve this problem by introducing "hyper-threading" in its gigahertz processors. The applications which run on such chips are "fooled" by leading apps to believe that there are two chips instead of one because the single hyper-threading chip can take on two threads at the same time.

However, applications will have to be rewritten for Intel's hyper-threading processors.

"What we need is throughput computing which does not disrupt customers' existing software models," said Singer. "The chip should not require changes to existing applications. So the problem is that application performance is not getting better despite better processors."

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Chip multi-threading or CMT, according to Singer, can do that. Sun plans to roll out chips which do not just have multiple threads on a single core but also multiple cores on a single chip.

"If you can deliver eight threads per core and eight cores per processor, each chip can become a server farm in itself," Singer said.

Sun plans to ship its first CMT chip in 2004 with the UltraSPARC IV with two cores for twice more throughput than current chip designs. It will release the "Gemini" chip in the same year built on 130 nanometer technology. In 2005, the UltraSPARC V will be released, using 90 nanometer technology and five times more throughput. Finally, by 2006 a Sun chip codenamed "Niagara" will be delivered using what Singer described as a "radical CMT design with multiple cores and many threads."

"We need to rethink today's processor architecture as the memory bottleneck gap continues to grow and as applications demand more processor power," Singer said. "Sun believes this will happen through CMT and throughput computing."

IBM to handle human resource needs of P&G

Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

NEXT year's rollout of an outsourcing deal between IBM Corp. and Procter and Gamble (P&G) will likely boost the country's bid to become one of the top destinations for global business process outsourcing (BPO) contracts.

Starting January 2004, IBM Philippines will run one of the three shared centers of the worldwide employee services of P&G.

The other centers will be located in New Castle in the United Kingdom and Costa Rica.

This is "crucial" for IBM Philippines and the country in general, according to Joaquin Quintos, president and general manager of IBM Philippines Inc., adding that the computer giant expects this deal to transform the local subsidiary into a "global center of IBM competence for human resource management."

"We see this as a profit center for IBM worldwide," he added, noting the $100-million business transformation outsourcing contract signed by IBM and P&G.

Quintos acknowledged that the decision to locate P&G's shared centers for human resource management in the Philippines bodes well for the country which is now positioning itself as an outsourcing hub.

"This is a niche that we Filipinos can excel in. This is one of the few remaining opportunities that we really can take advantage of," Quintos said.

About 150 employees of P&G in the Philippines will be absorbed by IBM Philippines next year. P&G has been operating its Asia Pacific headquarters in Metro Manila.

Meanwhile, Quintos said that the IT market will remain tough in 2004 due to tight corporate spending.

"Companies are looking for ways to survive a very challenging market. The challenge for us is that customers now want a cheap but really good service that is high quality and has value," the executive said.

IBM, he added, is now attempting to address this changing market with its "e-business on-demand," concept where business process outsourcing is now playing a significant role in helping companies reduce "fixed" costs.

Fixed costs are those related to software licenses, network maintenance, and other expenses used to support and manage IT resources.

IBM's concept of e-business on-demand essentially focuses on helping businesses survive in a cutthroat market. It also allows enterprises to pay software licenses, for instance, on a pay-per-use scheme, or even outsource "non-core" business processes to third party service providers.

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How common is corruption in the courts?

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

NOW THAT the Constitutional crisis is over, Filipinos can look more objectively at the issues that started it. People can examine the problem of judicial corruption, minus the passion and heat of the past weeks. It is no longer politically charged.

Here are some relevant data from the surveys of Social Weather Stations (SWS).

Decisions mostly fair

How many have experienced the judicial system? According to the SWS June 2003 national poll, 7 percent had cases in court as complainants, while 5 percent were defendants.

Most litigants said their court cases were decided fairly.

Complainants:
Fair 61 percent
Neither fair nor unfair 10
Unfair 25

Defendants:
Fair 73 percent
Neither fair nor unfair 15
Unfair 10

Surveys of lawyers and judges

SWS got opinions from the experts of the judicial system, the lawyers and the judges themselves. A 1994 poll covered lawyers in Metro Manila, while the 1995 survey probed judges of the Regional Trial Courts (RTCs).

These two polls, among others, were sponsored by The Asia Foundation. The respective surveys involved 300 lawyers and 731 RTC judges.

From here on, the heading "Opinion of Lawyers," refers to the first SWS survey, while "Opinion of RTC Judges" pertains to the second.

Corrupt judges

Opinion of Lawyers:
Very many 7 percent
Many 24
Some 32
A few 22
Very few 7

Opinion of Lawyers
Regional Trial Court 66 percent
Municipal Trial Court 64
Court of Appeals 28
Supreme Court 17
Sandiganbayan 16
None of the above 14
Opinion of RTC Judges:
Municipal Trial Court 66 percent
Regional Trial Court 61
Court of Appeals 56
Sandiganbayan 29
Supreme Court 26
None of the above 18
No answer 9

Bribe money

"Are you aware of any case in your city when a judge took a bribe?" Among the lawyers, 48 percent were aware of such instances.

Opinion of Lawyers
Very often 7 percent
Often 18
Sometimes 21
Occasionally 14
Rarely/Never 10
Don't Know 30
Opinion of RTC Judges
Very often 12 percent
Often 2
Sometimes 22
Occasionally 11
Rarely/Never 14.
Don't Know 30
Notice the similar ratios for the safe "Don't Know" reply.

Influence on decisions

The SWS 1994 survey of lawyers asked, "How important are these factors in the judge's decisions?"

Very important 30 percent
Somewhat important 44
Not too important 12
Not at all important 9

This yielded a margin of importance (Important minus Not Important) of +53 percentage points. The following were the margins for the other factors.

Media coverage +50 percentage points
Professional reputation of lawyers +45
Ties with relatives and friends +34
Judge's fraternity or sorority connections +31

Poorly paid and shady employees

SWS asked the lawyers, "Among the following, which is/are the main cause/s of corruption?"

Sheriffs 82 percent
Clerks of court 60
Stenographers 26
Secretaries 22
None of the above 10

Finally, low compensation was likely to be a factor in corruption. The 1995 RTC Judges poll found that the pay then was bleak.

Very adequate 3 percent
Somewhat adequate 15
Somewhat inadequate 47
Very inadequate 34

Margin -63 percentage points

The margins were rather negative as well for the other court employees.

Stenographers -67 percentage points
Government lawyers -56
Sheriffs -54
Secretaries -51
Clerks of court -32

It seems that solving the problem of poor pay is one means to fight fraud in the courts.

Comments to <dar-royo@philonline.com>

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THE NUMBER of Filipino workers in Hong Kong has dropped to about 129,000 from a peak of 155,000 two years ago.

OFWs face tough times in Hong Kong

By Clarissa S. Batino

HONG KONG—Filipino domestic helpers in Hong Kong face tougher times after the government here required employers to pay an additional HK$400 a month starting Oct. 1 that would eventually be deducted from the employees' wages.

Coupled with increasing competition from neighbors like Indonesia and China, prospects for Filipino domestic helpers are dimming in Hong Kong.

These adverse developments would also affect the overseas remittance business of the likes of the Philippine National Bank, admits Rolando Cruz, general manager of the PNB Remittance Center Ltd.

Reeling from the impact of the wage cut earlier this year followed by the spread of the deadly Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus that slowed down the Hong Kong economy, the number of Filipino workers in Hong Kong has dropped to about 129,000 from a peak of 155,000 two years ago.

In February, the Hong Kong government reduced the minimum allowable wage of foreign domestic helpers by HK$400 a month and imposed a HK$400 monthly levy on employers.

Cruz explained the levy would be imposed for the duration of the contract and would be used by the Hong Kong government to retrain the residents.

He surmised that employers would pass on the cost of the tax to their employees, which would mean a double-whammy for Filipino domestic helpers.

While 75 percent of foreign domestic helpers in Hong Kong are Filipinos, other nationalities have started to come in. Indonesians, for instance, now number 78,000 from only 33,000 a year ago.

Cruz says the Indonesian government gives their offshore workers proper training, including language skills, so they could easily adapt in Hong Kong.

There is no such training in the Philippines although most of the

OFWS/B2-2

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Management excellence in Philippine business entrepreneurship

MAPPING THE FUTURE

By Edward L. Fereira

GOOD managers and businessmen aspire to be always attuned to positive global, technological, social and economic changes.

In 1999, about 50 years after its creation, the MAP started organizing Management Orientation and Trade Missions in order to hit two birds with just one stone: continue enhancing the management skills of management executives, and provide opportunity for good managers to explore business opportunities in other countries. While addressing the continuing education needs of members remains to be a top priority concern of the MAP, we would like also to promote the entrepreneurial spirit among MAP members and help promote Philippine business abroad.

Promoting Philippine business will involve the showcasing of the country's competitive strengths like abundant natural resources, educated workforce, our rich culture, our enviable democracy, among others. What we need is a national vision and economic strategy based on our country's competitive strengths.

We hope that the country will soon have a more effective government, a stronger republic, a leaner bureaucracy, more responsible citizens and higher morality. These attributes will certainly make any selling mission abroad a breeze.

We further hope that the Philippines will soon find an end to rampant corruption, pervasive criminality, constantly deteriorating peace and order, unabated kidnapping, widespread lawlessness, tax cheating, among others. Promoting Philippine business will be a gargantuan task if these social ailments will not be diminished, if not totally eliminated.

I personally believe that the success of any selling and exploratory mission should be measured in terms of its positive impact in improving the volume of exports for Philippine products and services to other countries.

The MAP will now be a more involved player in promoting Philippine business through its Management Orientation and Trade Missions, and through its active involvement in Business Councils like the newly-established Moscow-Manila Business Council.

The old mindset is for the MAP to just focus on promoting management excellence. A new idea that will oust this old mindset is to promote management excellence and Philippine business at the same time.

(The author is president of MAP and president and CEO of Ferycor International Management Group, Inc.. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)

DTI/PRA's choice for best shopping center of the year. Danila Regina I. Fojas, EVP-General Manager of Shangri-La Plaza Corp., receives the award from DTI Assistant Secretary Norman Hocson and Johnlu Koa, president-French Baker and PRA member. As part of its development, Shangri-La Plaza recently launched Streetscape, its al fresco dining and entertainment center.

OFWs face tough times ...

From page B2-1

Filipinos going as domestic helpers in Hong Kong and elsewhere have ample education.

With the growing number of Indonesians in Hong Kong, PNB has tied up with Bank Mandiri of Indonesia to strengthen its remittance business.

PNB accounts for more than 35 percent of the Filipino remittance business in Hong Kong followed by the Metrobank Group, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and the Bank of the Philippine Islands.

PNB has nine remittance centers in Hong Kong. A tie-up with 7-11 widened its network by 480 outlets all over Hong Kong.

Cruz says a similar arrangement is being worked out with shops like Watsons, Circle K and other convenience stores to give Filipinos more alternatives and greater ease in sending their money home.

Building communities, not just houses

By Carmela P. Almonte

THE REAL estate firm Property Company of Friends, otherwise known as Pro-Friends, has a unique vision.

"We'd rather be known as a community developer than as a developer of subdivisions," Pro-Friends executive vice president for operations Gus Leonardo says. "We want to go a step further, so that *hindi lang namin naitayo yung bahay* (we didn't only build the house), but we also made sure that there's a relationship among the residents."

Formed in 1999, Pro-Friends was the brainchild of a group of developers, whose members were involved in socialized housing.

"We built thousands and thousands of houses, and it dawned on us that it was more than just a numbers game. There are faces behind the numbers," Leonardo says.

Stories of killings and other crimes committed in the socialized housing projects they had built would reach Leonardo and his colleagues, and it saddened them.

"In a way, we fell short in creating an environment that should be friendly and neighborly, so we took it upon ourselves to make our obligation to go beyond the infrastructure," he says.

Aiming to develop a place that would provide a safe, peaceful, and clean environment for Filipino families, Pro-Friends launched its first project, Villa de Primarosa, in Imus, Cavite in early 2000. It was originally a distressed subdivision they rehabilitated after buying the foreclosed property from a bank.

Since then, Pro-Friends had developed about 17 subdivisions.

A DEVELOPMENT of Pro-Friends

At first, Pro-Friends thought that with its price range, it was already catering to middle-income owners. The partners were surprised to learn that they were still under the "low cost housing" cluster.

The company now has the working-class as its target market, with OFWs making up 40 percent of its buyers.

For P700,000, one can already have a three-bedroom, two-toilet and bath house with a floor area of 60 sq. m. on a 54 sq. m. lot.

All the owner has to do is to move in. Unlike most low cost units, Pro-Friends' units already have bedroom partitions.

They also have the starter unit, which is a two-story house with a floor area of 40 square meters on a 75 square meter lot that can be expanded to a floor area of 90 sq. m.

But in addition to the house and lots themselves, and true to its goal of creating a nurturing environment for the residents of its subdivisions, Pro-Friends provides each project with the infrastructures necessary in making the site a community. These include covered basketball courts or multipurpose halls and chapels.

"In Imus, Cavite, we decided to donate a church. It started as just a chapel for the residents," Leonardo says. "In one of our subdivisions in Dasmariñas, same story. Now, people from other subdivisions go to our subdivision for spiritual nourishment."

In some projects, schools have been constructed. One Pro-Friends site in Bulacan started with just a one-room pre-school. Today it offers up to high school education with accreditation from the Department of Education.

Pro-Friends also promotes good relations among residents by sponsoring community events such as sportsfests.

It also invites non-government organizations to give residents livelihood workshops and setting up cooperatives for the subdivisions.

"Quality living doesn't need to be expensive," Leonardo said. "You just have to address the people's social, physical, spiritual and emotional concerns."

Pro-Friends thinks it is possible to give people what they deserve without losing money.

"So what if you slice a portion of your profit in order to give people these things? That's how our mindset has changed. We were no longer so engrossed in numbers, " Leonardo says.

Pro-Friends is trying to go back to its roots.

Having adopted a new set of business ethics and learning, unlearning, and relearning concepts through their experience in socialized housing, Pro-Friends will develop houses for the marginalized sector next year.

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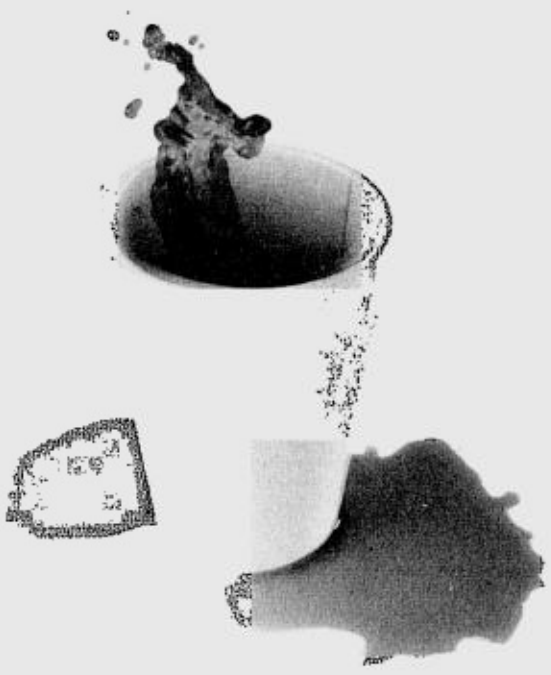

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Shopping's future lies in a chip

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

TIME was when shopping was a simple affair. A person goes to a store, picks out what he wants, pays for it and leaves.

The intense competition in mall-crazy Philippines, however, forced malls to come up with something new to entice people to continue buying products from their department stores or supermarkets.

There are such extras as better music, modern architecture and appealing mix of merchandise. Then there are also the loyalty cards based on the smart card or chip technology to hopefully keep customers coming in, because they get something more than what they paid for.

One of the first to issue such loyalty cards was the Rustans group of companies with its Frequent Shoppers Plus Card. This card entitles members to discounts and prizes corresponding to their accumulated purchases from the department store.

The Ayala malls—Ayala Greenbelt, Glorietta, Alabang Town Center and the Ayala Center Cebu—have the Ayala Malls Discount Plus card. This card gives members a point for every P100 purchase in any affiliated store including department stores and supermarkets.

The points can be redeemed during a specific period in the form of movie tickets or merchandise in the reward catalog.

Shopwise, the hypermarket arm of the Rustans group, likewise offers a loyalty card to its customers, along with retailers such as Mercury Drug, the country's largest drug store chain, giant book store network National Book Store.

All these loyalty cards are aimed at getting customers to stay with the shops offering them since competition is tough.

The Shoemart group, the country's largest supermall chain, is the latest to offer loyalty cards with its SM Advantage card.

Marketing officer Millie Dizon says in an interview that the SM Advantage Card was conceptualized to put more fun into shopping, since the Shoemart group already boasts of having everything under one roof.

Dizon says with the Advantage card, which gives benefits such as discounts and freebies, shopping in Shoemart is taken to a higher level, which would hopefully keep competition at bay.

Big R Supercenter, a mass-merchandise hypermart and part of the Robinsons group of companies also offers a loyalty card called the Super Sulit Card.

The Super Sulit Card available in four branches—Robinsons Place Novaliches, Robinsons MetroEast, Robinsons Cagayan de Oro and Robinsons Pampanga—is primarily targeted at wholesale customers, though it is likewise open to retail customers," explained Lorna Tamaya, marketing services manager in a statement.

To encourage membership, customers are given a choice between paying a membership fee of P200 or presenting P10,000 worth of receipts within a three-month period. Upon sign-up, new members immediately get a bonus of 50 points.

Redemption schemes vary every quarter to make it more exciting for customers. Some quarters will feature discounts, others a rebate scheme.

Big R chose the smart card system to give customers a high-capacity card to allow for automatic, instant and detailed way of tracking their points.

The smart card technology, however, has generally been limited to what is referred to as single purpose chips in the Philippines, unlike in other countries where the same loyalty card issued by retail stores could also double as credit cards or even identification cards.

These single-purpose chips also cover the SIM cards inside mobile phones, the debit cards issued by the Bank of the Philippine Islands and the phone cards issued by the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which are disposed once the set amount is consumed.

Jose Rene L. Villa-Real, vice president and country manager of MasterCard International says in an interview that there is still a long way to go for the Philippines to use the chip technology for multiple purposes.

Villa-Real describes the smart cards as something like a hard disc in a computer, where applications can be added or removed depending on the user's preference.

This technology is already used for mobile phones where the phone can also be used to surf the Internet and store pictures and tones, but has not really spread to other potential areas such as in banking and even retail.

The most successful adoption of smart card technology in the Philippines so far is the multi-application Mondex smart card at the Rogationist College in Tagaytay, a popular tourist destination south of Metro Manila, which was launched in June 2001 in collaboration with MasterCard.

The Philippines is the first market in the Asia/Pacific region to carry a campus application for the Mondex card. The Mondex smart card applications enables more secure access to a wide range of school services and convenient school-related transactions, such as tuition payment and campus cafeteria purchases.

Villa-Real says that in Southeast Asia, Malaysia and Singapore are the leading markets in the adoption of smart cards with Korea, Japan and Taiwan as major growth markets.

In these countries with more advanced infrastructure, smart cards are used for transportation, to access commercial or business districts and also collect points under their department store loyalty programs.

"We have received positive response from Philippine members on the adoption of smart card and expect an increasing momentum in the Philippines' move to smart cards with the support of our members, vendors and merchants," he adds.

"To protect members' investment in moving to chip and to ensure a smooth transition to chip, we've helped our members put rules in place for chip migration. MasterCard's Asia/Pacific Board, with representation from members around the region, has adopted guidelines to support chip migration with a view to having most cards migrated and infrastructure in place by 2006," he adds.

Unlike the usual magnetic stripe cards, more information can be stored in smart cards and can be customized for consumers.

"With multi-application smart cards, consumers benefit with greater convenience and security. Consumers do not need to carry cash and can get closer to a new cashless world including the Internet with functions such as venue access, digital ID, electronic authentication, and more," Villa-Real says.

Bells yet to jingle for holiday job seekers

NEW YORK—Staffing companies warn that temporary job seekers are unlikely to experience much joy this holiday season.

Despite recent indications of a growing economy and an improved jobs picture, both Adecco and Manpower Inc., the Nos. 1 and 2 staffing companies in the world, say demand for temporary labor this holiday season is about the same as last year—poor.

"You sit there tapping your fingernails saying, 'There's got to be jobs sooner or later, right?'" said Banc of America securities analyst Marta Nichols. "But we now have a pervasive culture of cost cutting and cost control in corporate America and companies are consistently trying to do more with less." *Reuters*

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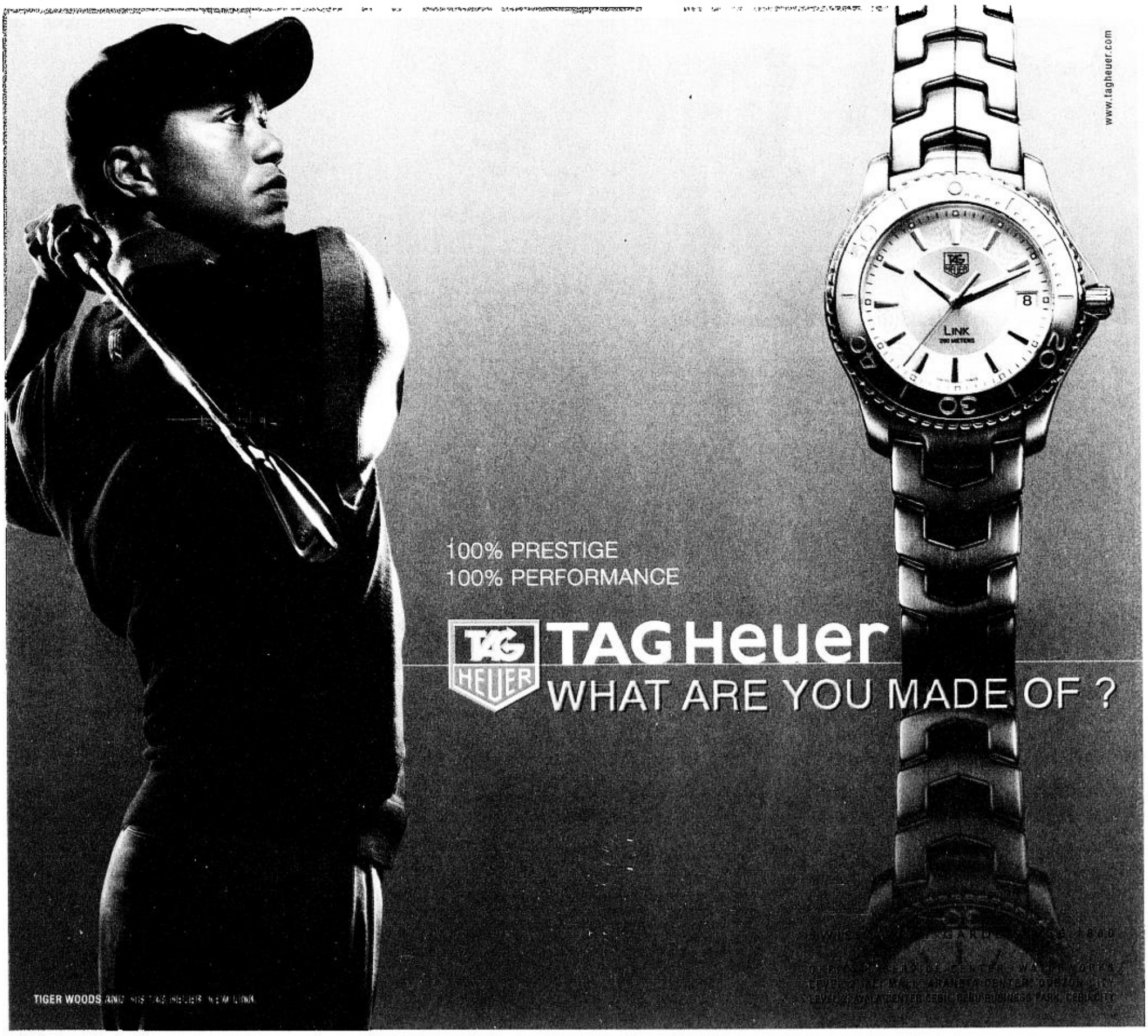

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

People, Events & Products

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2003

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Newest dry cleaners in town

GOOD news to all laundry shop owners and laundry shop patrons. Your friendly neighborhood laundry expert Mr. Wash has opened its latest addition to its fast-growing laundry business, the Mr. Wash Dry Clean & Laundry Plant.

Mr. Wash inaugurated a state-of-the-art dry clean and laundry plant Oct. 10, boasting of 5th generation facilities like a Steam Press Machine that can steam up to 100 pieces of clothes in an hour! If that's not impressive enough, bring in your clothes with delicate fabrics like wool and piña fiber barong and have no worries because they will be in good hands, undergoing a rigorous but gentle process using chemicals to thoroughly clean your "dry clean" clothes without damaging or fading colors of your garments.

And for walk-in customers, it is even possible to pick them up on the same day!

The dry cleaning process involves the use of special, non-abrasive chemicals and special machines, which act as cleaning agents to get those hard to remove stains out, leaving your dry clean clothes looking new. This process of dry cleaning is not available in your neighborhood laundry shops because of the lack of space and resources to operate such machinery. Because of this reason, All laundry shop owners who would like to avail themselves of Mr. Wash Dry Cleaning Services will be receiving special discounted rates from Oct. 10 until Dec. 31. During this promo period, Mr. Wash will not only match your customers' current 2003 sales invoice price of existing dry clean service, but offer an additional 20-percent discount on top of it all. That equates to maximum savings and profit for those who avail themselves of it.

These superb services can be availed of at low prices, guaranteed. For more details on how you can avail yourself of Mr. Wash promos, get in touch with Manny Martinez at 910-5074 or 671-5955, or visit the Dry Cleaning plant at 212 C. Santos Street, Barrio Ugong, Pasig City. It is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Start saving now on your laundry expenses with the services of Mr. Wash laundry and Dry Clean Plant-quality wash without garments' damage.

JUBILARIANS OF ASSUMPTION CELEBRATE

The Ruby Jubilarians (High School 1963) of the Assumption Convent, San Lorenzo Village celebrated this important event Oct. 19 with a series of dance numbers popular in the 1960s at the Assumption Auditorium in Antipolo. Seated, from left, are Linda Florendo Lagdameo, Cristina Busuego Zialcita, Carmen Arroyo Geronimo, Marfina Teodoro and Rosalinda Francisco. Standing, from left, are Isabel Fernandez Guevara, Mariliese Saldaña Evaristo, Baby Serrano Araneta, Regina Suarez Bersamin, Nettie de Villa, Christy del Castillo Puno and Beb Corpuz Jamora.

SUPER BOWL OF CHINA OPENS IN FESTIVAL SUPERMALL

Super Bowl of China recently opened its 4th branch at the Chefs Avenue food strip of Festival Supermall Alabang. Shown are the management and staff of the new branch. Located at the 3rd level of the mall, the restaurant carries the same popular Chinese dishes at value-for-money prices that guests have come to love in its branches at SM Megamall, Jupiter Street, and Glorietta IV, Makati City. The ambience of the 150-seater restaurant is casual and inviting and service is efficient and cheerful. Super Bowl of China also offers delivery services in the Quezon City, San Juan, Mandaluyong, Pasay, Makati, Pasig, Paranaque, Alabang and Las Pinas areas. Just dial 737-8888.

Quick Bayt gets rid of flies fast

WHAT insect caused the fall of ancient Greece, the destruction of the Roman Empire, and the decline of other civilizations? Believe it or not, all that was accomplished by the insect people love to hate, the fly.

It's easy to understand why we loathe such a lowly insect. The fly is a harbinger of death because of the many diseases it brings. It brought plagues that wiped out entire populations during the Middle Ages, and even now this insect continues to terrorize us by spreading cholera, typhus, salmonella, the eggs of tapeworms and roundworms, and other diseases, especially in areas where sanitation is poor.

"The harmless-looking fly buzzing around your immaculate kitchen is carrying 2 million bacteria, and it's not even loaded. Flies that abound in less sanitary environments are not only happier, but they carry nearly twice as many bacteria," according to entomologist Hy Freedman.

To get rid of filthy, disease-carrying flies, Bayer Environmental Science, the maker of Quick Bayt-an effective fly control granule, recommends good sanitation practices such as regular cleaning of surroundings, garbage collection, and covering of garbage cans. Without organic wastes to breed in, fly population can drastically be reduced. One kg of organic waste can give rise to up to 10,000 flies.

To kill flies on the spot, use Quick Bayt—the next dimension in fly control. Quick Bayt is a brightly colored sugar-based insecticide with two attractants that are irresistible to flies. Its active ingredient—Imidacloprid—quickly knocks down flies. It also contains Bitrex, a bittering agent to prevent accidental human ingestion.

Quick Bayt can be used in two easy ways. The granules can be scattered on dry surfaces like pathways or in open stations and trays. Alternatively, it can be mixed with water and painted in small spots such as walls, window ledges, and other areas where flies abound. Care must be taken not to paint on walls or areas where staining is not tolerable. Reapply when the bait has been totally consumed. This innovative product is ideal for public markets, slaughterhouses, restaurants, animal farms, food processing areas, and other fly-prone areas.

Quick Bayt is available at Bayer Environmental Science authorized dealers: in Metro Manila, Agrimex Sales Corp (248-1413), Alog & Co (882-4513), JB Guevarra & Sons (913-5365), Ordex Marketing (838-1362), Precept Commercial Corp (807-3858), and Pycor Inc (712-1802); in Luzon, Baliwag Marketing Co Inc in Bulacan (044-7666125), HM Trading in Angeles City (045-3223445), Jacinto Environmental & Hygienical Supply in Nueva Ecija (044-3113498); in Visayas, Centerphil Distributors in Bacolod City (034-4346978), Colonie Enterprises in Mandaue (032-3468411), Four-A-Agro in Mandaue (032-4215901); in Mindanao, Cagayan Diversified Trading in Cagayan de Oro City (082-727060), and Markwide Specialist in Zamboanga City (062-9910197).

MAKING HISTORY

It was a memorable event for leaders of International Marketing Group (IMG) when they were invited by the World Financial Group (WFG) Making History event at the famous Wrigley Baseball Field in Chicago, Illinois. They were in town for a three-day Contender School attended by financial leaders from different parts of the world. Shown are, from left, Solomon Evangelista, WFG marketing director, and IMG CEOs Joen de las Penas, Bart Borja, and Noel Arandilla.

POSITIVISM WORKSHOPS

The Positivism art workshop is currently conducting drawing and painting sessions once a week for 40 weeks (10 months) with students 13 years old and above. The workshops are conducted by positivism exponent and painter ER Tagle from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Fridays or from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Saturdays. After the program the students will exhibit for sale their best works. Art classes are held at the studio and gallery of ER Tagle at the Enterprise Plaza, 1429 Pablo Ocampo Street, San Antonio Village, Makati City. For inquiries, call 899-6358 or 0917-9726223. Shown are some of the students at work.

TADECO CBA

Tagum Agricultural Development Co Inc (Tadeco), through its executive vice president Antonio M. Brias (standing left) signed the collective bargain agreement with the Tadeco Labor Union represented by the union president Samuel Cardenio (standing right). The agreement covers the remaining two years of the 5-year CBA between Tadeco and the union signed in 1999.

BITS & Clips

Workshop to discover one's best voice

PROFESSIONAL speaker, classical singer and voice therapy and rehabilitation consultant Joscephine Gomez and EENT specialist and multi-awarded toastmaster Gil Vicente of St. Luke's medical center will present the newly-revised edition of The Voice Image Seminar-Workshop on Nov. 18 to 19 from 1 to 5 p.m. and Nov. 16 and 25 from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Galleria Manila on ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. For details, call The Corporate Mind at 687-7898.

Life is beautiful

ENCOURAGING stories of survival can be found in the latest issue of Me with Vina Morales on the cover. Find out what's in Thailand that had Cathy fall in love and more. Me magazine, published by Mega Magazines & Publications Inc, is now available in leading bookstores and newsstands nationwide. For more information call 631-2859.

Monsour reigns at HealthQuarters

MONSOUR del Rosario talks about his first love-Taekwondo. Be encouraged by his story and learn lessons on playing the game called life in HealthQuarters' October-December issue. Meanwhile, former president Fidel V. Ramos shares his thoughts on health and being the prime example of living life to the fullest literally and figuratively. Articles on Golden Acres, vitamins, men's midlife crisis, premenstrual syndrome, and child sexual abuse round out the roster for this issue. HealthQuarters, the total health magazine, is published by DOC Communications Inc.

Reopening cosmetology school

TONY Galvez, the hairdressing guru with 30 years of hands-on experience, reopens the Tony Galvez School of Cosmetology (TGSC) located at the Tony Galvez Centrum at 124 9th Avenue, near corner P. Tuazon Boulevard, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City starting Nov. 17. Started in 1989 as part of its corporate philanthropy to provide scholarships to poor but talented students, TGSC is the first cosmetology school in the country to offer a curriculum based on international standards. Accredited by Tesda since 1995, students will be provided with outstanding resources and access to intensive hands-on training through the personal mentoring of Tony Galvez himself. At the same time, TGSC's links with the hairdressing industry in Europe, Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong will enable students to join educational field trips and study tours abroad. For inquiries, call TGSC executive director Lourdes Co at 913-4370 or 913-3953.

PLAI 3-day congress

THE PHILIPPINE Librarians Association Inc (PLAI), in cooperation with the NCCA-National Committee on Libraries and Information Services (NCLIS), will hold a 3-day National Congress on "Bridging the Digital Divide: Harnessing ICTs for National Development, A Challenge for Information Professionals." The Congress will be held from Nov. 26 to 28 at the Manila Pavilion, United Nations Avenue corner Maria Orosa Street, Ermita, Manila. For more inquiries call Ma. Fe Robles at 931-5999, Linda Tayona at 302-7717, Fe Abelardo at 526-0926, or Emma Rey at 931-5864.

ProductFILES

Outdoors gear

THULE of Sweden, the world's authority on automotive roof rack systems, recently announced the availability of its line of load carriers for the new Mitsubishi Outlander 4x4. Shown photo is the Thule X1 box and bike rack system fitted on an Outlander mini-SUV on display at the Union Motors dealership in Paco, Manila.

Every Thule roof rack system is OEM certified and guaranteed to be a perfect fit and is designed to endure external stress year after year without losing any of its functions. Its easy-on and easy-off feature makes it the ideal equipment for exploring the great outdoors. Thule Roof Rack Systems are offered as a dealer option in all Mitsubishi dealers nationwide. For inquiries on how to jazz up that mini-SUV, visit the Thule/EGR showroom at the Equitable Bank Building, Roosevelt corner Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan or call 744-6367.

ARCOR SUPPORTS RCT

Arcor Confectionery and Snack Products, represented by its local business partner ADP Industries Corp, recently signed a contract with the premier theater production in the country Repertory Philippines. Arcor, through its cereal brand Arcor Cereal Mix, participated in the Repertory Children's Theatre (RTC) as one of the sponsors of its latest play 'Beauty and the Beast'. Present during the contract signing were (from left) RCT artistic director and 'Beauty and the Beast' director Joy Virata, Arcor product manager Michael Tandas and Repertory Philippines president and artistic director Zenaida Amador.

3 homecomings

CLASS 1958 of Rizal High School in Pasig City will hold its 45th homecoming and reunion at the Jade Palace on Dec. 14, 10 a.m. For more details, call Herminia Reyes-Asuncion at 643-7288, Juliet Landrito-Lorenzo at 631-1150 and Consuelo Canlas-Callang at 873-1317. Meanwhile, the Silver Jubilarians of Class 1979 of ***Poveda Learning Centre*** calls on all Poveda Alumnae to attend the homecoming titled "IT...come home!" on Jan. 4, 2004. The event commemorates the canonization of the school's founder Fr. Pedro Poveda. A thanksgiving mass will be celebrated by Bishop Soc B. Villegas at 4 p.m. on that day. For more details, call Mabel of the Alumnae Office at 635-0568. Finally, alumni of ***Cabiao High School*** are invited to the Batch '78 silver jubilee grand reunion on Dec. 27 at the Cabiao High School campus in Cabiao, Nueva Ecija. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m., and the celebration lasts until 5 p.m. For more information, call Marivic Nogoy at 0920-5410285, Ledy Galang at 0917-9598339, or Noel Gamboa at 0917-5384127.

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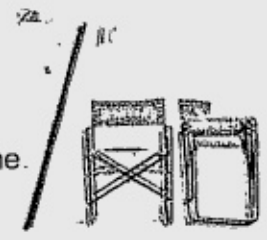
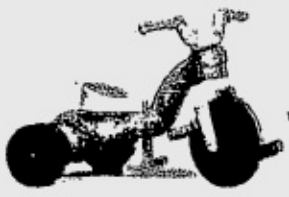
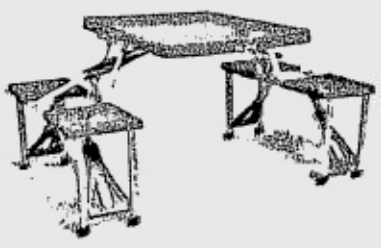
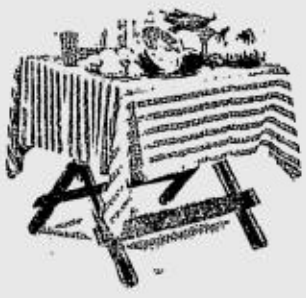
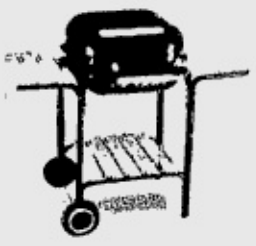
"'Day, yung at ? Also the  and the  , ha?

 and baby's , and Gerry's . Si don't forget.  also.

'Tsaka  . Hey, where are the kids?!"

"Nasa loob na po lahat, ma'am."

All aboard.
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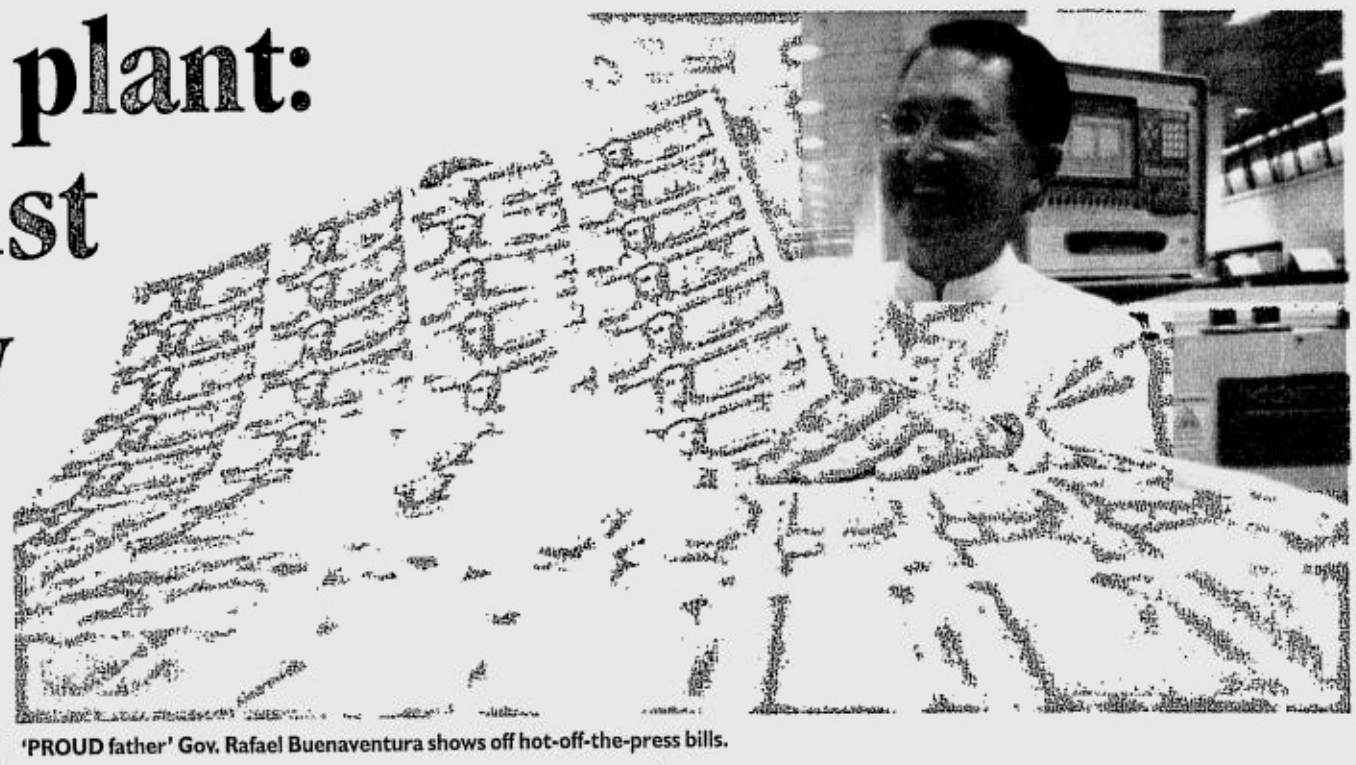
3 YEAR WARRANTY

BSP printing plant: More than just about money



'PROUD father' Gov. Rafael Buenaventura shows off hot-off-the-press bills.

By Clarissa S. Batino

IF THE Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas could lay down all the coins and bank notes its minting and printing facility has churned out over the last 25 years, it would produce an elaborate mantle that would be more than enough to cover the six-hectare complex in Quezon City.

Add to that the tons of gold and silver refined within the plant and the Philippines would produce a majestic tapestry to showcase its wealth.

The BSP owns the printing, minting and refining facility it calls the Security Plant Complex, an imposing structure at the corner of East Avenue and Agham Road surrounded by black steel bars that obviously mean business.

Inside is a maze of rooms and corridors filled with heavy machinery in action. The bare utilitarian interior accommodates several posters and religious figurines for positive reinforcement. The values of honesty and fear of God are common writings on the walls.

This place is where the peso bank notes, coins and precious metals are produced and finished and so the pervasive mantra of "God is watching" is quite understandable and, apparently, effective as no incident of theft had ever been recorded.

Unknown to many, the place is also responsible for the printing of passports and other important documents as well as the minting of tokens for the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and the Light Railway Transit.

In one shift, the SPC can churn out at least 3.2 million notes and 500 million coins, depending on the orders of the BSP's cash department, says BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura who shows off the complex like a proud father.

Before the printing plant was put up, the Central Bank spent millions of dollars to have its bank notes and coins printed abroad.

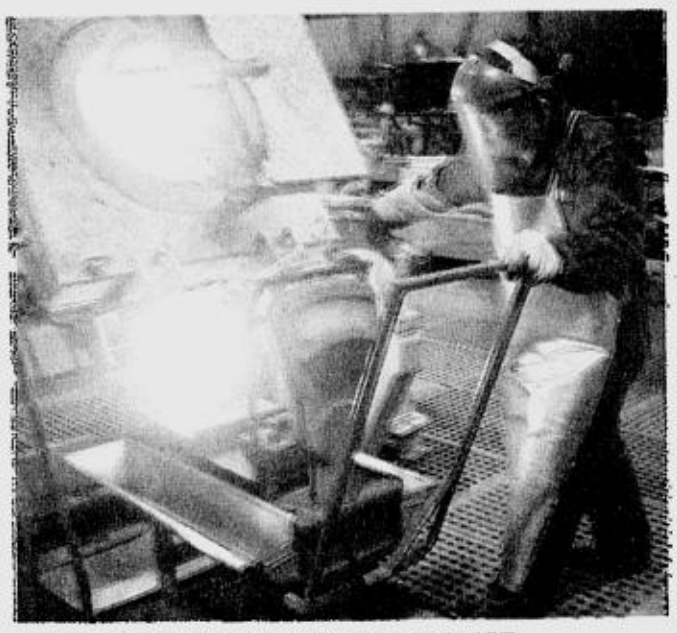
On top of economic reasons, the creation of the country's own printing and minting facility gained momentum when the country suffered a coin shortage in the 1960s.

Thus, the security complex was inaugurated on Sept. 7, 1978. Marking the event was the production of the first 5-peso coin that was never circulated.

The actual operations of the minting plant commenced December 1977. The Central Bank aimed to produce 3.08 million coins during the initial running but ended up minting only 85 pieces.

The printing plant also went into action at the same time. During the early days of the SPC, it imported most of the services from global expert Thomas Dela Rue and ended up only numbering semi-finished sheets of P2-notes.

PLANT worker examines new P20 bills.



A coin-minting machine turns out tokens for the LRT.

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

Nowadays, the central bank only imports the blank sheets and blank coins. Three years ago, SPC started using abaca for the 100, 500 and 1,000 peso notes after a thorough research proved that a combination of abaca and cotton is more resistant to wear and tear.

By October 1978, the gold and silver refinery started operations using the bullion consignment from Benguet Consolidated. The first blast produced 4,232.204 ounces of gold and 1,935,813 oz. of silver. Refined gold and silver are sold to jewelers and to industrial users.

The central bank chief notes that with the operations of the refinery, the Philippines started claiming its place in the global metal industry. The country is one of the largest producers of gold in the world but until 1978, ironically, had no refinery of its own.

A year after its started operations, the London gold market recognized the Central Bank as an acceptable melter and assayer of good delivery bars, a prestige only few refiners had achieved.

A good delivery bar weighs from 350 fine troy oz. to 430 tr.oz (10.9 kilos to 13.4 kilos) and has a minimum purity of 99.5 percent.

In the the past 24 years, the refinery processed 12,638,109 tr.oz of refined gold and produced 31,526 pieces of good delivery gold bars. Currently, the plant could refine 740,000 tr.oz a year.

As for the bank notes, the SPC has printed a total of 14.159 billion pieces of different denominations, meeting almost 90 percent of the orders. The production peaked in 1999 when the BSP ordered the production of 1.368 billion bills in preparation for any ill-effects of the Y2K bug.

Realizing the potential of the SPC to generate income, the central bank opened the facility for other business starting 1979 when it began printing checks for banks.

In 1980, government securities rolled off SPC's printing presses and three to five years later, orders for BIR strip stamps, passports from DFA, seamen's service record books and seafarer's identification record has for the Philippine Coast Guard poured in.

Between then and now, the printing facility started churning out judicial title forms for Land Registration Authority and the Land Management Bureau, artist's record books, bills and bond certificates and even publications.

COINS are readied for distribution.

When the LRT began operations in 1985, the security plant received its first order for commemorative non-precious tokens.

It has also produced commemorative coins, medals and other mementos for the Social Security System's 30th anniversary, Philippine National Bank's diamond celebration, 1994 Miss Universe Pageant and World Youth Day.

More than 2.5 billion checks and non-check documents have come out of SPC in the last 20 year. Since 1984, it has rolled off over 23 million passports and over 600,000 booklets.

The minting plan has produced over 40 million tokens for LRT and Pagcor and more than 50 million commemorative coins and 400,000 medals.

Through the years, SPC has evolved into a stronger facility and has been ISO-certified.

Buenaventura also credits the workers of SPC for rising to the challenges. Last year, for instance, employees worked longer shifts to produce more passports for the DFA after the department suffered a shortage.

The central bank chief says an ambitious rehabilitation and upgrading of the plants is in the works to make the SPC a truly world-class facility.

He says related projects and programs like the Clean Note Policy are being undertaken to improve the currency flow in the country.

Deutsche Bank holds annual economic briefing

(FROM left) Axel Gross, DBMN head of Multinational Corporates; Brian Stevenson, DBMN head of Global Banking Division-Asia Pacific; and Tertius Vermeuleu, president and chief executive officer of Siemens Inc.

PROF. Norbert Walter, chief economist of Deutsche Bank Group.

DEUTSCHE Bank AG Manila Branch recently held its annual economic briefing at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel for DBMN's corporate and financial institutions clients.

Professor Norbert Walter, Deutsche Bank Group's chief economist, discussed Deutsche Bank's perspectives on the global economy as well as Asia's and the Philippines' economic performance.

Over a hundred local and multinational business clients of DBMN attended the briefing and listened to Walter's half-hour presentation.

After the briefing, DBMN introduced its new set of officers in Manila as part of its management changes in the country.

Enrico Cruz is the new Chief Country Officer, replacing Michael Hellbeck. Belinda Madrid was appointed head of Global Banking Division and Global Cash Management. Mylene Caparas is head of Corporate Relationship Management while Alex Gross is head of Multinational Corporates.

WILFRED Steven Uytengsu, president and chief operating officer of Alaska Milk; and Fernando delos Reyes, DBMN head of Global Relationship Management-Financial Institutions.

NANETH Vinoya, DBMN head for Trust Department; and Carlos Nava, chief finance officer of Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.

(FROM left) Jimmy Yap, head of Global Cash Management-Asia Pacific of DBMN; Nona Torres, investment relations officer of Alaska Milk Corp.; Rela San Juan, treasury manager of Alaska Milk Corp; and Mylene Caparas, head of Corporate Relationship Management of DBMN.

FROM left) Andreas Rubin, general manager of STEAG AG Philippine Rep Office; Michael Hellbeck, outgoing chief executive officer of DBMN and chief country officer of Deutsche Bank Taiwan; and Claus Peter Bell, executive vice president of STEAG AG.

(FROM left) Till Mariano, deputy treasurer of Ayala Land; Victor Gomez, relationship manager of DBMN; Nancy Uy and Pam Perez, treasury officers of Ayala Land.

MOVEMENTS

Shell companies have new CEO

Edgar O. Chua succeeded Eliseo B. Santiago as the chair for the Shell companies in the Philippines (SciP) effective September 2003. Santiago was recently appointed as the vice president for Manufacturing, Supply and Distribution for Shell's East Zone organization and he will be based in Singapore.

As country chair, Chua will assume the positions of chair and president of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation, president of Shell Gas Eastern Inc., Shell Gas Trading (Asia Pacific), Inc., Shell Chemicals Philippines, Inc., Shell Solar Philippines Corp., the Shell Company of the Philippines Limited, managing director of Shell Philippines Exploration B.V., and vice chair of Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc.

Concurrent with his role as country chair for SciP, he will also be the chair of the Shell companies in Guam, Palau and Saipan.

Chua started his career with the Shell Group in 1979 as a sales representative of Shell Chemicals Company of the Philippines. He then moved to Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation where he was exposed to audits, supply distribution, consumer development and services, lubricants, supply and trading.

Born in Bacoor, Cavite, Chua holds a Chemical Engineering degree from the De La Salle University.

KPMG Laya Mananghaya & Co. promotions

Leading accounting and management consultancy firm KPMG Laya Mananghaya & Company (KPMG-LM&Co.) recently announced a key staff movement in the firm.

Ma. Georgina Soberano has been promoted from director to principal for KPMG LM&Co.'s Tax and Corporate Services Division. She earned a Juris Doctor from the Ateneo de Manila University and first joined the firm in January 2000 as manager for tax and corporate advisory.

Gemma Bien has been appointed Transaction Services Manager. A graduate of the University of Sto. Tomas in 1988 with a Bachelor of Science in Commerce (major in Accounting) and holder of a Master's degree in Business Administration from De La Salle University in 1996, she has previous experience in financial and investment analysis and in treasury.

Rafael Guinto was promoted Assistant Manager in Audit responsible for managing over 20 audit professionals. He also oversees the content and information in reports and documents submitted to the audit partners.

E-Learning Society has new president

Ben L. Teehankee, director of the Doctor of Business Administration Program of the De La Salle University Professional Schools, Inc. Graduate School of Business (DLSU PSI-GSB), was elected president of the Philippine E-Learning Society (PELS) during the recent organizing meeting of PELS at Bayview Park Hotel in Manila.

The other members of the new PELS Board of Directors sworn in by Undersecretary Virgilio Peña of DOTC, Executive Director of the Information Technology and E-Commerce Council (ITECC) are: Jay Robert Fernandez of Xavier University, Celeste Gonzales of Ateneo de Manila, Roland Diez of FEU, Christina Padolina of CHED, Leo Querubin of Crimson Logic, Ricardo Robrigado of DLSU-Dasmariñas, Ma. Lurenda Suplido of the UP Open University and Eloisa Tino of STI.

As the new president of the Society, Teehankee's vision for PELS is to establish a culture of sound practice and research in Philippine e-learning, to accelerate human resource development all over the country and to enable the country to be a center of world-class e-learning developers, course materials and instructors.

Teehankee obtained his master of statistics from the University of the Philippines and completed his doctorate in business administration (with distinction) from DLSU. He is concurrently associate professor, instructional technology coordinator and director of the Doctor of Business Administration Program at DLSU PSI-GSB, where he teaches business ethics, research methods, human resource management and statistics.

Philamlife names new exec

Jose L. Cuisia, Jr, president of The Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company, recently announced the following executive appointments:

Ferdinand L. Berba has been appointed as president & chief operating officer of the newly created Philam Financial Advisory Services Inc (Philam Financials) where he has been tasked to oversee the operation of the new company with specific focus on training and developing a team of well-trained and professional financial advisors that will successfully cross-sell the different products and services of the Philam group of Companies and ensure the group's competitiveness in the upscale market.

Insular Life promotions

Insular Life chairman of the Board and president Vicente R. Ayllón recently announced the promotion of Seraline L. Manguni to vice president, Laarni F. Garraton and Aileen R. Beltrano to senior assistant vice president, and Aireen Gail R. Gulrey to assistant vice president effective Oct. 1, 2003.

Manguni joined Insular Life's Actuarial Research and Product Development Staff in 1991. She is currently seconded to Insular Life's subsidiary, I-Care, as first vice president, Head of Technical Operations, and Actuary. As head of the Actuarial Staff, she oversees the underwriting, rating, and benefit design of the business in order to ensure adequate and competitive pricing of products. She is also tasked with overseeing the operations of the Company's Management Information System.

She graduated magna cum laude with a BS Statistics degree from the University of the East. She is a Fellow of the Actuarial Society of the Philippines and the Life Management Institute, and is a member of the International Actuarial Association.

What is the proper etiquette in using chopsticks in Japan?

GOODNESS GRACES

Lia S. Bernardo

AS EARLY as the 1600's the Japanese already had existing etiquette rules when using Chopsticks. Here are some practical tips:

- Chopsticks are picked up with the right hand.
- If you are using wooden chopsticks you will have to break it apart into two pieces. Once you have done this, please refrain from rubbing the two sticks together to remove bits of wood.
- Chopsticks are placed on the chopstick rests in between bites. If this is not available, you may place the chopsticks on the side of the dish or on a saucer. It is not proper for the Chopsticks to touch the table after it has been used.
- When serving yourself from a communal plate always use the serving chopsticks. If this is not available do not serve yourself using the end of the chopsticks that you have already used. Use the unused end to serve food.
- When finished, lay your chopsticks across the plate or the rice bowl.
- Do not point your chopsticks or wave them around when talking.
- Do not pass food to someone using your chopsticks, offer them the plate and let the person serve himself.
- Standing your chopsticks on a rice bowl resembles the way the Japanese offer to the dead, as such, avoid this.

At a cocktail reception my boss ordered a glass of cognac. I was always under the opinion that cognac is served after dinner. Wasn't he wrong in ordering it as a cocktail? By the way, what is the difference between a cognac and a brandy?

You are correct, cognac is an after dinner drink and it is never served with ice. It is always served in a glass called a snifter, or a balloon glass. This enables the aroma to rise straight into the nose, concentrating the smell. True connoisseurs choose a smaller glass in a tulip shape. In such a glass the aroma is concentrated before revealing itself steadily, allowing time to discover its subtle fragrances. In some countries brandy is taken with ice and mixed with soda as a cocktail. Usually, inferior quality brandies are used as cocktail bases. However, superior quality cognacs should be served after dinner and most definitely without ice.

The difference between cognac and brandy is quite simple. Just remember that all cognacs are brandies, but not all brandies are cognacs. For a brandy to be called a cognac it must originate from Cognac, France. The production of the brandies produced in this region is governed by specific rules and as such, there is a law that prohibits manufacturers of brandy outside of Cognac to put the word Cognac in their labels.

Please do not get the wrong impression that all brandies are inferior to cognacs. That is not so, there are very high quality brandies available that are of equal quality to cognacs but do not carry the cognac name because it is not made in that specific locality.

Cognacs are classified by age, since cognacs stop maturing when it is bottled the label will inform the consumer how long it has been aged. The quality and age of a cognac depends upon its length of stay in an oaken barrel.

VS stands for Very Special it is between two and five years old. This is the basic grade for Cognac. Also referred to as Three Star.

VSOP stands for Very Superior Old Pale it is between four up to 20 years old.

X.O (Extra Old) or Napoleon is the best quality Cognacs that are aged from 20 - 50 years old.

Please email your business etiquette queries to etiquetteconsultants@hotmail.com names of senders will not be published.

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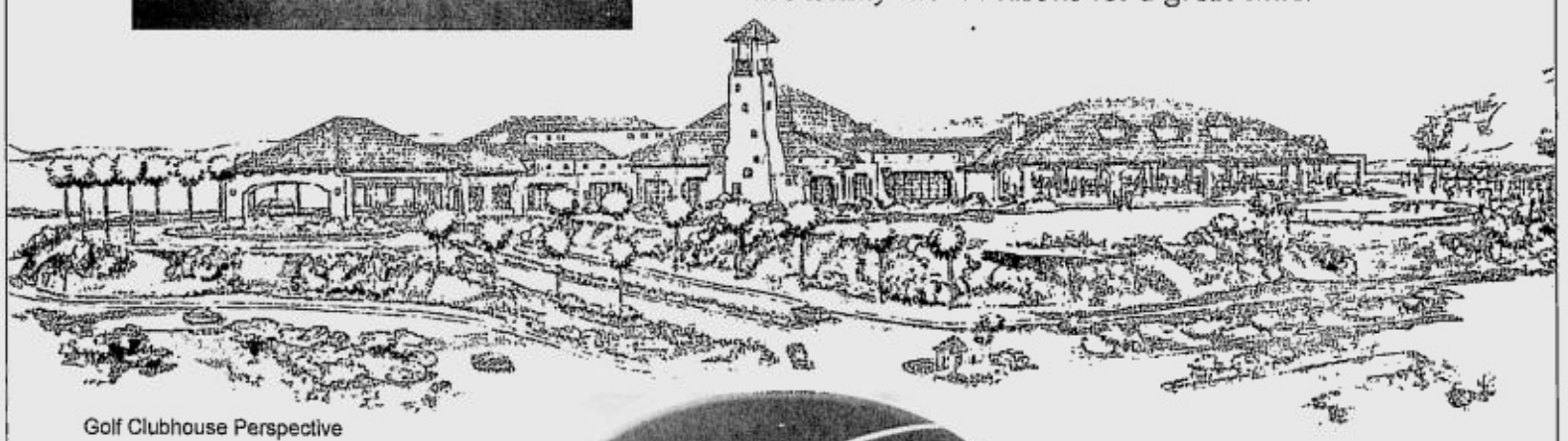
Soon, the Community Clubhouse will rise, to give the family more reasons for a great time.



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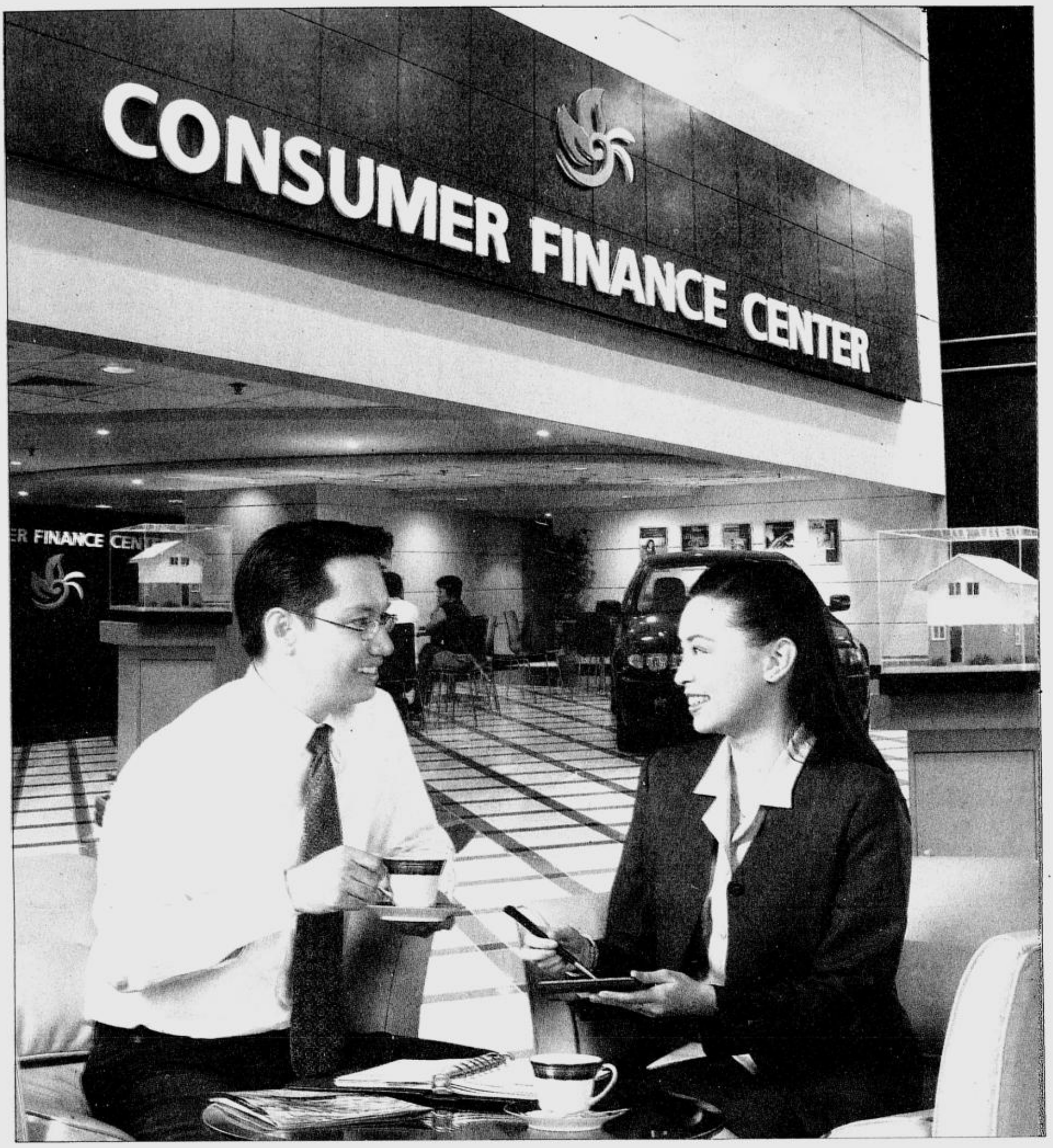

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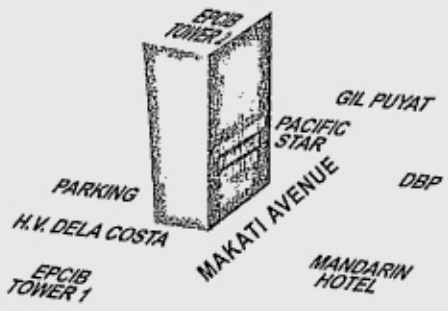

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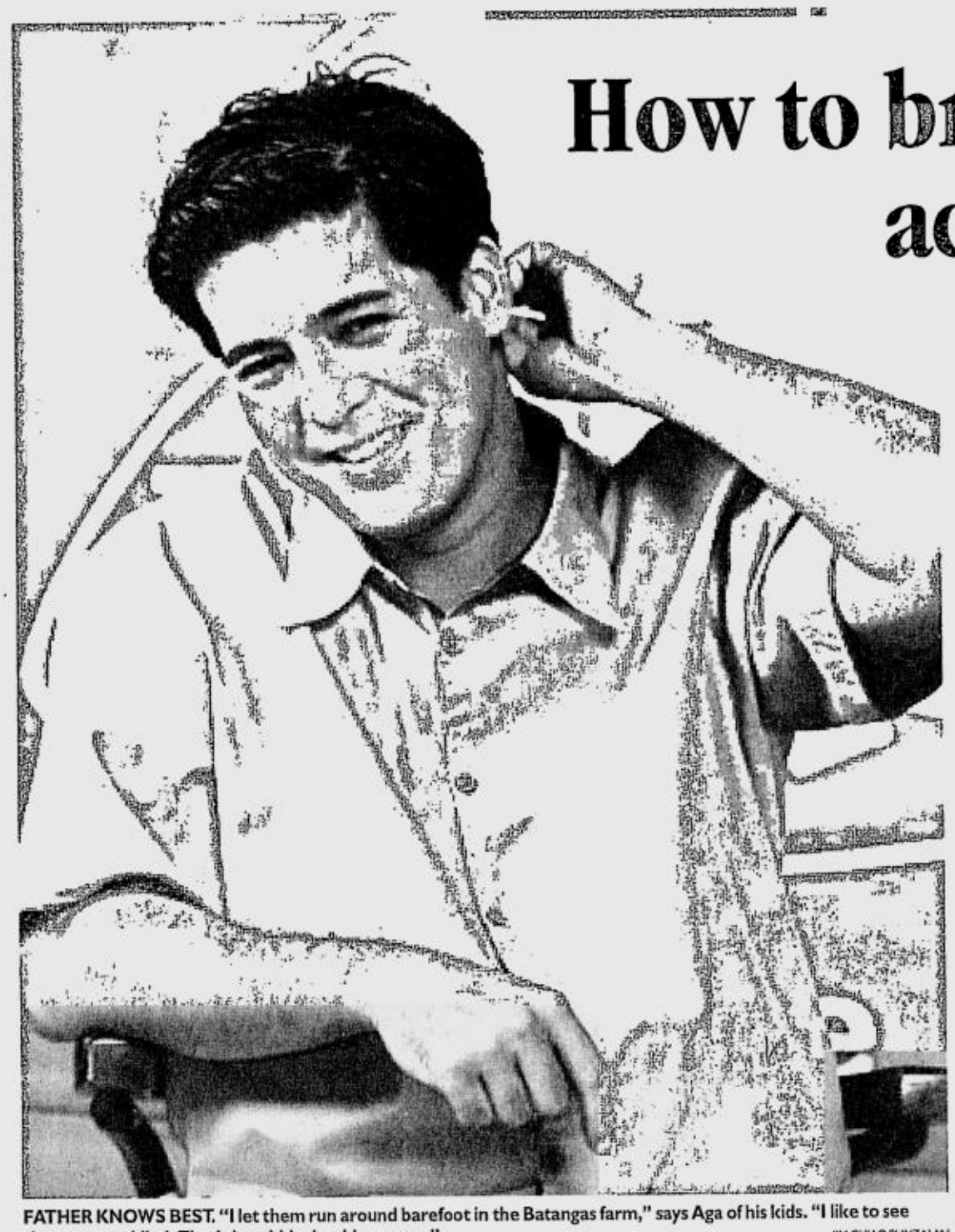
E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

How to bring up kids, according to Aga



FATHER KNOWS BEST. "I let them run around barefoot in the Batangas farm," says Aga of his kids. "I like to see them get muddied. That's how kids should grow up." JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

By Marinel R. Cruz

AGA Muhlach wants his and Charlene Gonzales' twins to be "exposed to the realities of life" so they would be strong.

"I want my kids to live the way I have been living," said the doting father of 2-year-olds Atasha and Andres. "That's why when I bring them to our farm in Batangas, I let them run around barefoot. I like to see them get muddied. That's how kids should grow up."

The award-winning actor said he does not like spoiling the twins with too many toys and he buys them gifts only to mark special occasions.

Children who are given too many material possessions by their parents tend not to be satisfied with what they have, said the thinking heartthrob.

Atasha and Andres, children of a movie idol and a former beauty queen, are themselves celebrities already. They and mom Charlene are the stars of two new diaper commercials, the first of which was launched only last month.

"I discipline my kids so they would grow up valuing what they have," he insisted. "Not everyone is as fortunate as they are and they should be aware of that." Aga talked to INQUIRER Entertainment during the Makati City shoot of his Jollibee print ad for his annual Christmas gift-giving project, "MaAga ang Pasko sa Jollibee."

"When they're old enough," he said of his twins, "I want them to be part of something very special that I do for kids who are not as fortunate as they are."

The bedimpled actor who doesn't seem to age has been giving gifts to poor and orphaned children every Christmas for nine years now. He kicked it off nine years ago when he decided he would spend his birthday with the wards of the House of Christ Foundation in Tayuman, Sta. Cruz, Manila. He announced on his ABS-CBN sitcom "Okidoki Doc" that he wanted to donate toys to the House of Christ.

TWINS Atasha and Andres are also celebrity endorsers, like dad and mom, Charlene. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

"Thousands of people came and brought old toys," he recalled. "I couldn't believe it. I've been spending my birthdays with underprivileged children ever since."

"Okidoki Doc" had been off the air for a few years now, but his gift-giving project has survived.

On the same year nine years ago, Aga became the celebrity endorser of Jollibee. Soon after, the "MaAga ang Pasko sa Jolibee" project, a nationwide voluntary toy-giving program for poor children, was launched.

"I figured that with Jollibee's funds and networking, we would be able to give more toys to more kids," Aga explained. "I was right. The food company has been very supportive of the project."

And more and more beneficiaries are

HOW/ C6

The treasures of Yamani

By Marinel R. Cruz

MICHELLE Tan came back home to Manila seven years ago to be a singer. The Canadian-born felt she had a better chance of fulfilling her dream in the Philippines than in Canada because her music would be easily appreciated by Filipinos.

In 1995, Michelle became a member of the very first batch of artists in GMA 7's Artists Center. Wilma Galvante, GMA 7 vice president for entertainment, gave her a new name—Yamani.

OUT OF THE CLOSET

"I think the name means that I'm my family's treasure, in Filipino, their *yaman*," says the singer, in her two-bedroom condo unit in Malate, Manila. "I like Yamani a lot better than Michelle, which is so common here."

In 1997, Yamani joined the Traffic Jam Band as lead vocalist. The band was performing in Kampo in Quezon City when Fred Elizalde of Prime Music Entertainment spotted her.

"He said they were looking for a new artist and he asked me if I wanted to go solo," she recalled. "I said yes."

But Prime Music wanted the English-speaking Yamani to record Filipino songs. They made her study jukebox hits popularized by singers like Imelda Papin and Eva Eugenio in the early '80s.

"Mastering the Filipino pronunciation of the words really gave me a headache," she recalls. "During the recording, I thought (album producer) Nonoy Tan would have a nervous breakdown. The two Filipino songs included in my album took three hours each to record."

That album was "Bakit Ba?," released by Prime Music in September 2000.

She felt she was not ready to be launched as a solo performer and so she went back to singing with bands, until she went solo again in March 2001. She became a regular singer at the Hyatt Hotel's legendary Calesa Bar.

"(Hyatt entertainment director Rudy Francisco) was really patient with me," she says. "He taught me all the songs I needed to know. But I also did my own research."

She also had to change her entire wardrobe.

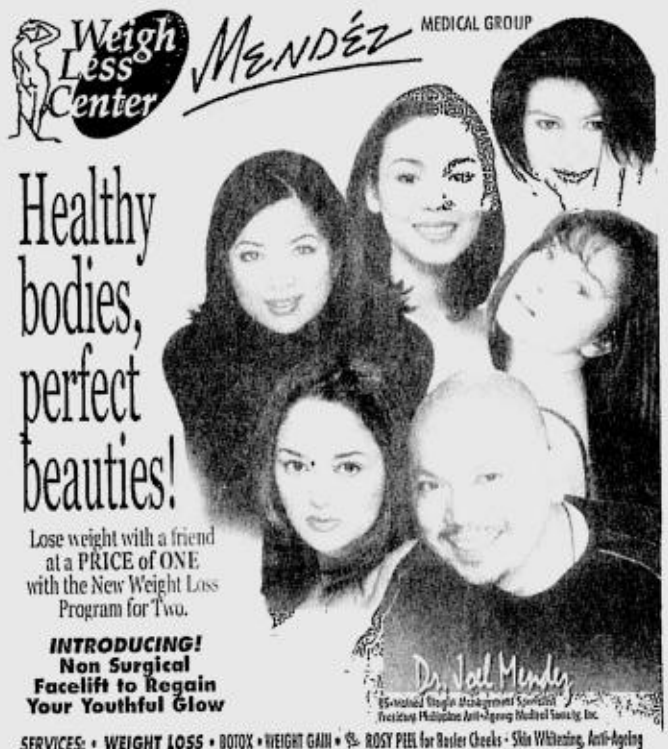
"I used to wear slacks and sexy tops bought for P200 each," she says. "Now, I have to invest in formal clothes. I can't wear the same clothes over and over again, especially at the Hyatt. Even the waitresses there said they look forward to seeing what I'm going to wear each week."

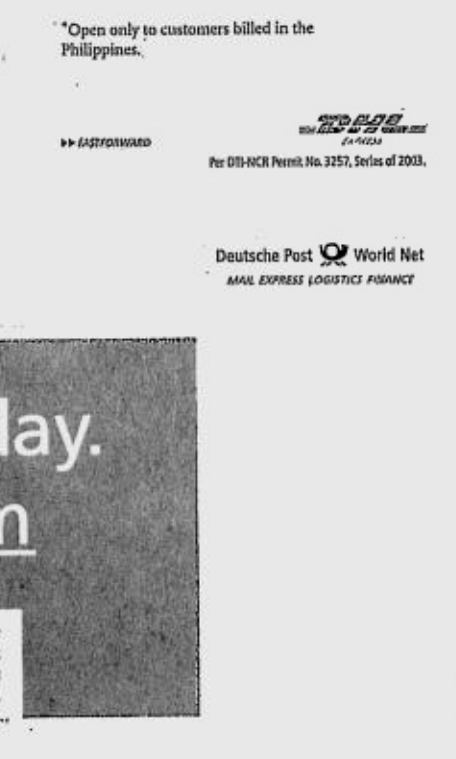
Her closets are now crammed with close to a hundred evening gowns which she collected since 2002, not counting the ones she has given away because they were loose, tight or "not sexy enough."

For her first major solo show at the PICC on Nov. 23 and Dec. 2, titled "I am Woman," Yamani is picking the perfect gowns to wear.

THE TREASURES/ C7

RARE PRINT. The printed Versace gown cost the singer P30,000, and she has worn it only three times. PHOTOS BY EGAY MONTAÑA





The real score

TWO Saturdays ago, **Liezel Sycangco** surprised viewers when she called **Rosanna Roces** on GMA 7's "Star Talk" all the way from Australia and weepingly announced that she was separating from her husband, **Robin Padilla**.

Viewers were caught off guard because, all this while, Liezel had struck them as a "martyr" wife who had resigned herself to tolerating her popular spouse's indiscretions. Well, Liezel appears to have grown up and decided to assert her rights, and she was finally putting her foot down.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

The plot thickened when a well-known female star was cited as the "third party" who had made Liezel decide to separate from Robin. The usual denials followed, but suspicions remained.

The following day, the brew thickened further when Robin guested on ABS-CBN's "The Buzz" to read his "official statement" on the issue. He said he wasn't guilty of indiscretion, and instead blamed rumor mongers

THE REAL/ C3

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GENERATION WHY 2

the youth as catalysts for a dynamic philippines

Upgrading the System - *How can the youth harness their capabilities to initiate a genuine transformation in Philippine political institutions?*

Paolo Benigno Aquino, Chairman of the National Youth Commission
Cheche Lazaro, Executive Producer, Probe Productions
Bayani Fernando, Chair, Metro Manila Development Authority
Butch Jimenez, VP for Media and Communications, PLDT
Lory Tan, President, World Wildlife Fund Philippines

Pioneering our Progress - *How are young Filipino innovators and entrepreneurs reshaping our country's business landscape?*

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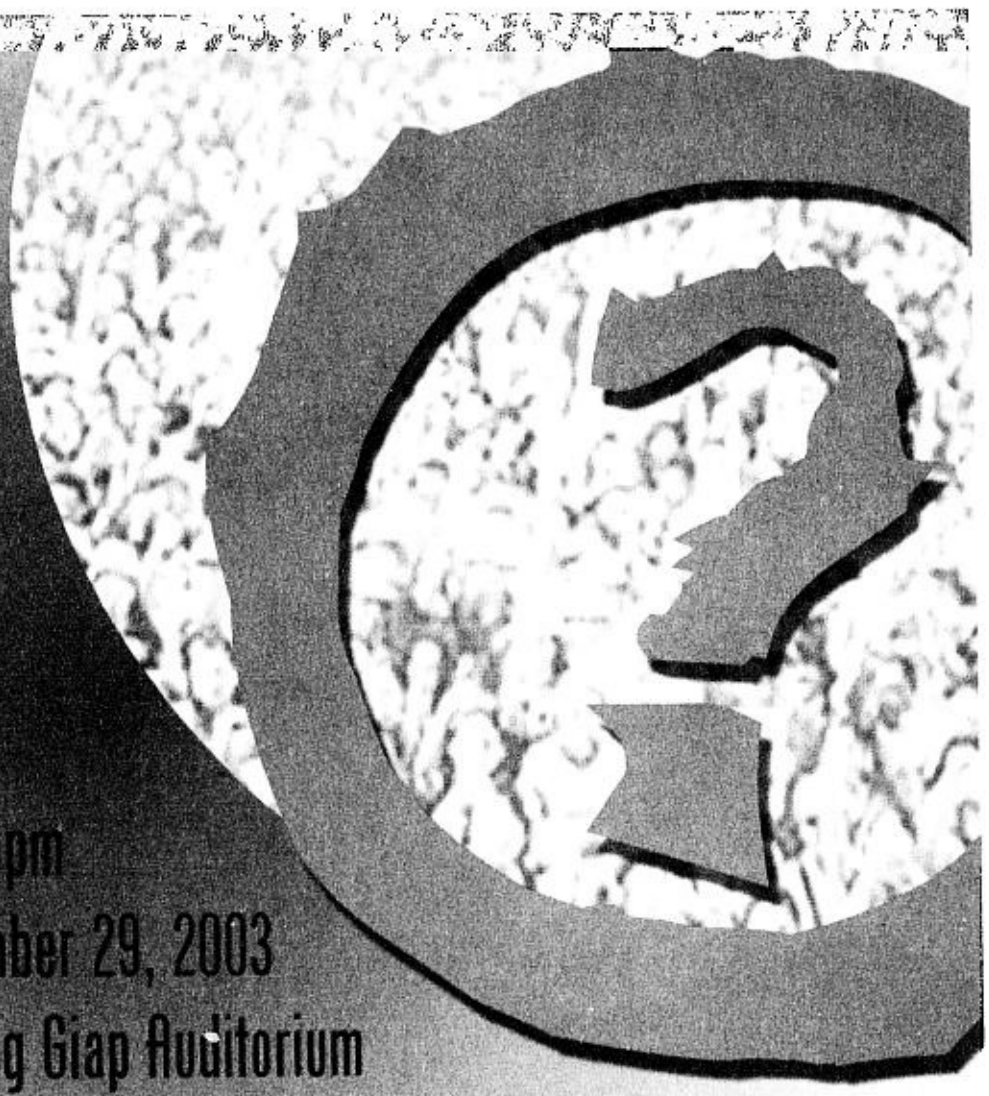
Budjette Tan, President, Alamat Comics
Chit Juan, President, Figaro Coffee, Inc.
JP Tanchanco, Founder and President, Chimara Neo-Vegan Café
Michael Tan, Columnist, Philippine Daily Inquirer



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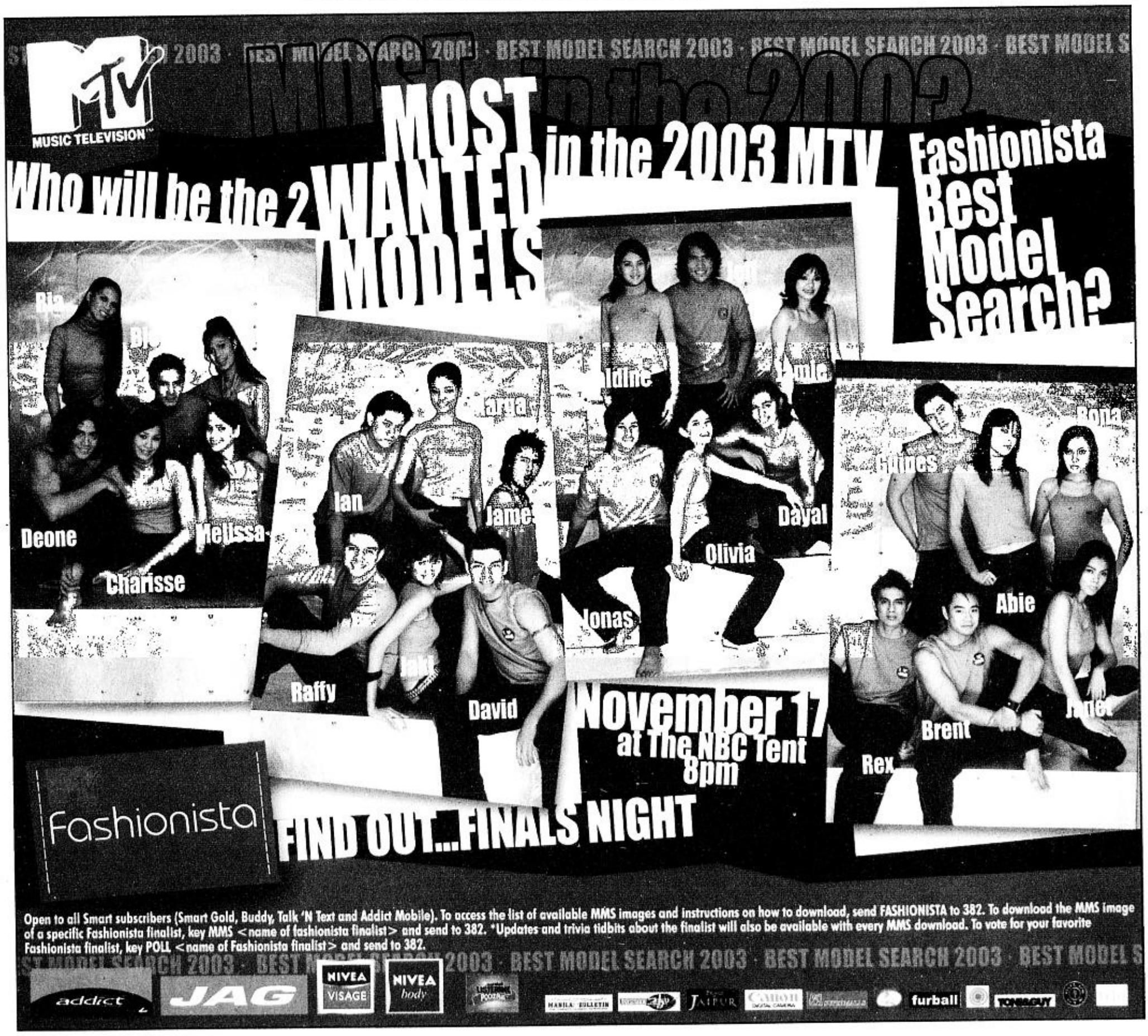

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The real score

From page C2

in media and show biz for "poisoning" his wife's mind.

In addition, he said he would ask permission from ABS-CBN to take a leave from his telenovela, so he could fly to Australia, and persuade Liezel to believe him rather than the rumor mongers, boost their children's spirits, and ask his wife for a second chance.

As for the "third party" in question, she is reported to have denied everything. She's also leaving for the States for some shows, a move that has led to more unsavory talk.

But what could she do that would be so nefarious on such a brief trip, during which she'll be busy performing?

Now that the smoke is starting to clear, this is how the situation is shaping up: Liezel has been told that her husband has been seeing someone else. She has decided to believe the reports and to separate from Robin. He, in turn, insists that those reports are malicious and untrue, and blames everything on the people who spread those rumors. His female co-star says ditto.

And Robin feelingly declares that he loves his wife and children so much that he's prepared to put his career on hold to be with them for a spell in Australia.

Who's telling the truth? At this point, Liezel obviously believes the reports, and so do some viewers. They also wonder why Robin has taken the tack of blaming everything on the rumor mongers.

But, if none of the parties involved budges from his or her position, the public won't really know the real score. So, only time will tell. If, after Robin's avowals and trip to Australia, Liezel still sticks to her decision to separate, that's it. But, if she relents, then we'll have to grant her the right to change her mind and save their marriage.

At this point, the only positive outcome of this entire controversy is the fact that a heretofore "martyr" wife has finally put her foot down on her reportedly errant spouse.

We trust that other women who also feel taken for granted and betrayed will similarly opt to uphold their rights as wives or girlfriends.

'Butterflies are Free'

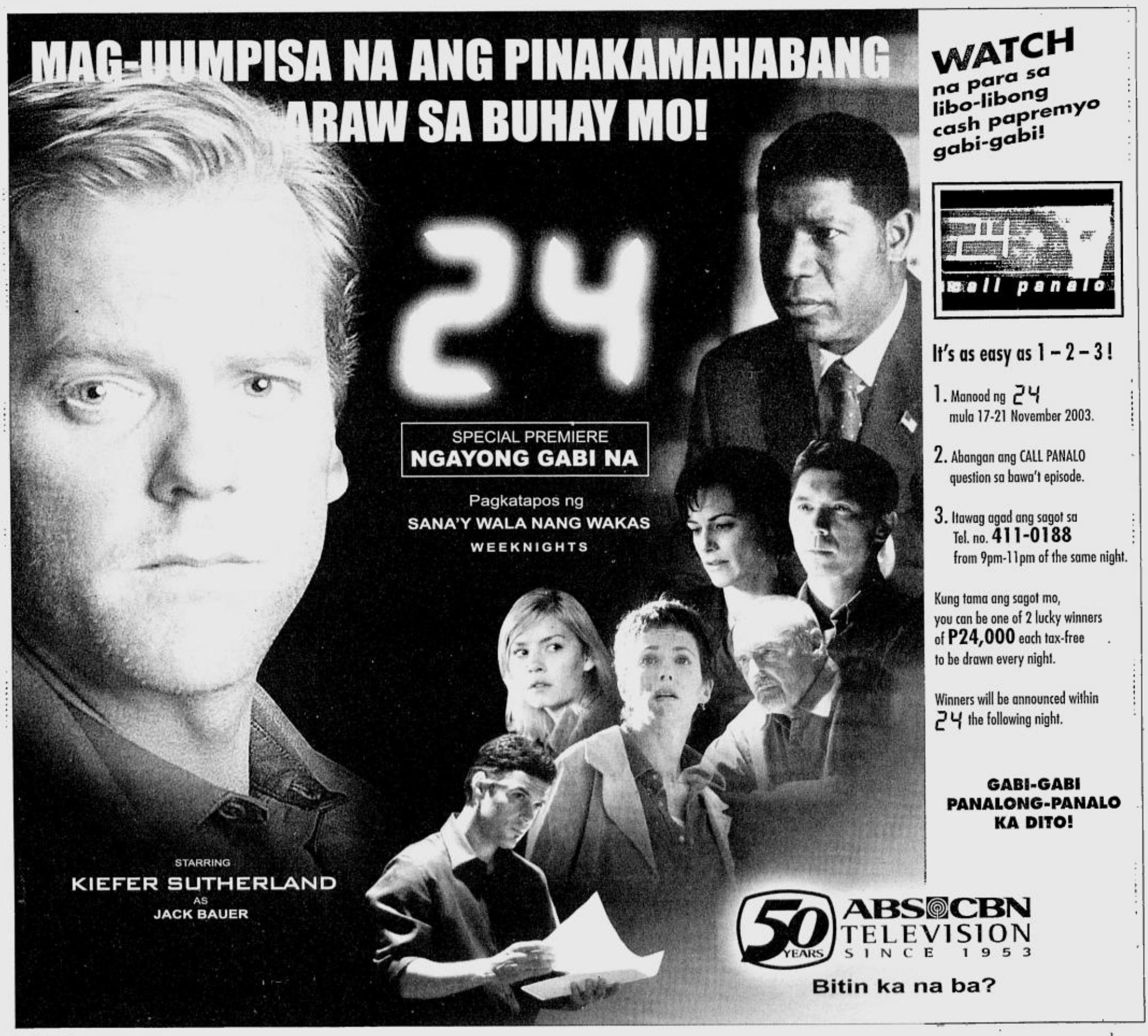
DRAMATIC Personae is staging Leonard Gershe's play, "Butterflies are Free," on Dec. 12, 13, 19 and 20 at Republic of Malate in Manila. It's about a blind musician (**Joel Trinidad**) who dallies with a frivolous neighbor (**Priscilla Almeda**). The musician's over-protective mother is played by **Linda Lupton**, while Priscilla's obnoxious boyfriend is portrayed by **Richard Signey**. Direction is by **Lito Casaje**.

Signey is also in Gantimpala Theater Foundation's "Grethology," a musical about Greek gods and goddesses, in which he plays the god of war. The musical, which is directed by **Tony Espejo**, will be performed from Dec. 5 to 7 at St. Scholastica's College, Manila. Other performers include **Roeder**, **Raul Montessa** and **Wowie de Guzman**.

Talents needed

THE DAMOODZ Band is looking for talented singers, dancers, musicians and stand-up comedians. For details, e-mail: mare—guerrero@yahoo.com. Text: (63919)567-2917 or write Mare Guerrero Communications, Suite 148 MBE bldg., United Nations Ave., Manila.

The band has performed in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, India, the Middle East and Saipan. Local gigs have been at Padi's Point, Cowboy Grill, Music Warehouse, Calle Cinco, Wow Philippines Intramuros, and Cockhouse in Laoag City, its current performance venue.



FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

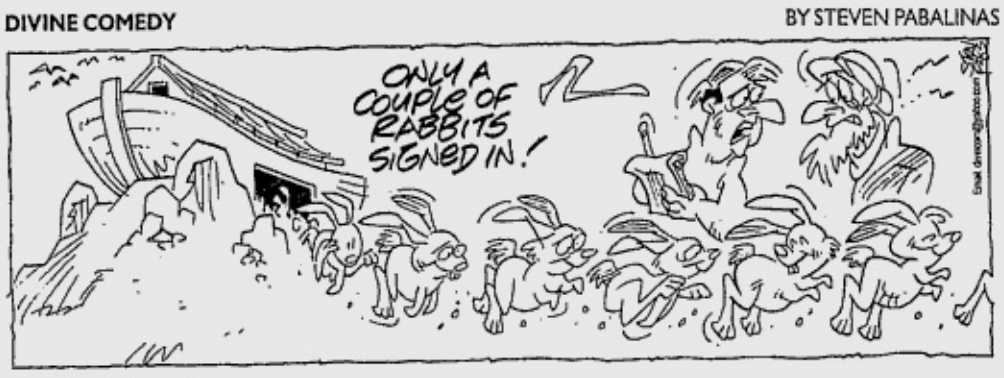
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are the glue that holds family and people together. Your belief in what you do matters to others as well as to yourself. People respect you, because you are caring, responsible and reliable. You have strong moral values. Expect more time by yourself this year because of increased studies or by choice. You will learn something important.
Birthdate of: Gordon Lightfoot, musician; Martin Scorsese, director; Lorne Michaels, producer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel so strongly about important issues today (life belief systems, religion, politics) that you're like a dog with a bone. You won't let go. (Lighten up.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might become completely fascinated or infatuated with someone today. You feel practically swept off your feet. Don't put a lot of stock in these feelings—they could be fleeting.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Resist the temptation to use jealousy, guilt or some negative emotion in order to manipulate someone. You don't have to do this. You know it, and I know it.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You have strong views about how to improve your health or your job. You insist on getting your own way. Actually, you may know what's best for you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Love at first sight is definitely possible today. You feel passionate, willful and ready for anything! This same energy can be channeled into the arts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Follow your impulse to make changes at home today. Whatever you do will definitely be an improvement. You're ready to turn your world upside down.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're so eager to convince someone of something today, you will go to extreme lengths. Ask yourself: What is really at stake? Do you believe in what you are doing?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): There is an obsessive side to you. Today it comes out with respect to money, cash flow and shopping. You feel you have to make the deal! (Perhaps you do.)

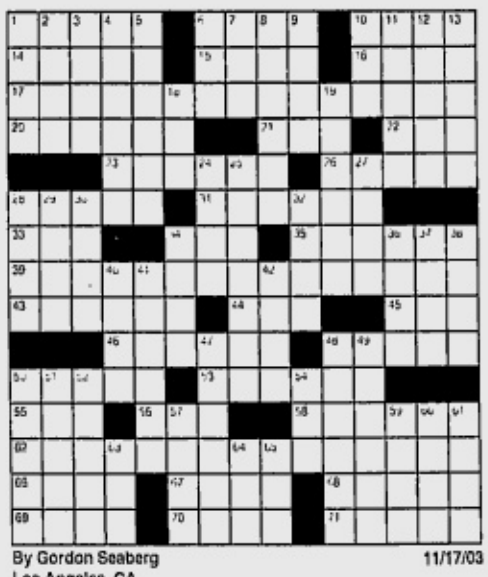
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You want to find escape from your everyday routine through love and romance. You want to be in a Hollywood movie. This isn't realistic. (That's why Hollywood movies are Hollywood movies.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Few would guess what passions lie beneath your conservative countenance. However, these passionate feelings could bubble to the surface today because you're excited about something.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is the kind of day when friends can become lovers. It's not likely, but it's possible. Or you might just feel jealous about someone. (These feelings pass quickly.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Don't be envious of someone who has more than you. Ironically, this only makes you unhappy. Actually, happiness is liking what you have.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Gordon Seaberg
Los Angeles, CA
11/17/03

ACROSS
1 Brief summary
6 Bishop or rival lead-in
10 Deserve
14 Practice piece
15 District near Greenwich Village
16 Vigor
17 Robert Young's family series
20 Ace's place?
21 Told you so!
22 Formerly named
23 Bring back
26 Obie or Edgar
28 Furnished with footwear
31 Something wicked?
33 Thai's neighbor
34 Cell mate
35 Domains
39 David & Ricky's family series
43 Add muscle
44 Up to now
45 Letters from the morgue
46 Classic Tod Browning film
48 Top of one's head
50 Godzilla's target
53 Apartment dweller
55 One to Juan
56 Network of "Frontline"
58 Decorated too much
62 Jerry Mathers' family series
66 Storage tower
67 Crazy bird?
68 Mingled in with
69 Comic King
70 Jerk preceder
71 Imparts

DOWN
1 Umps' cousins
2 & others
3 Winsome
4 Stick fast
5 Out of sorts
6 Invite
7 Actor Silver
8 Picked out
9 Gordie of hockey
10 Flow back
11 Sports venue
12 Stairway piece
13 Jotted down
18 SUV gear
19 Undercoat
24 Desktop image
25 Short, pointed beard
27 Have on
28 Messy person
29 Jimi Hendrix's "Purple __"
30 Move like molasses
32 Mild expletive
34 May or Cod
36 Venice beach
37 Calico's comment
38 Musician Getz
40 Far from certain
41 One side of the Urals
42 Pianist Myra
47 Walter of the Dodgers
48 Brunch choice
49 Change a file code
50 Oklahoma city
51 Outfielder Paul
52 Eucalyptus eater
54 Kind of sister or story?
57 Swindle
59 Stratford's river
60 Watch over
61 Joule fractions
63 Harry __ Zeli
64 Sock's end
65 Smallest bill

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

A	S	S	E	S	S	■	E	R	A	S	U	R	E	S
L	A	U	R	I	E	■	P	O	S	T	P	O	N	E
L	O	P	I	N	G	■	H	E	P	A	T	I	C	A
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T	A	R	■	W	O	O	D	E	D	■	N	E	R	O
T	U	N	G	■	S	C	R	E	A	M	■	D	E	N
E	L	A	R	A	■	K	A	R	M	A	S	■	■	■
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■	■	■	U	K	A	S	E	S	■	L	E	E	C	H
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I	N	D	I	C	T	E	E	■	S	A	F	A	R	I
R	E	S	T	A	T	E	D	■	T	H	E	L	M	A

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11/17/03

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

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SM Dial-A-Movie 833-9999

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SM CITY NORTH EDSA
929452

1 MAPANUKSO
2 THE WISHER
3 LIBERATED
4 MY FIRST ROMANCE
5 WRONG TURN
6 DARK BLUE
7 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
8 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

SM CITY CEBU
231375

1 -AIMA MARIA LABRA-
2 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 UNDERWORLD
4 THE RUNDOWN
5 UPTOWN GIRLS
6 FREAKY FRIDAY
7 MY FIRST ROMANCE
8 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

SM CITY BACOOR
4123898

1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 MAPANUKSO
3 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 DARK BLUE
5 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
6 RUNDOWN
7 LIBERATED
8 WRONG TURN

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128905

1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 IDENTITY
3 UPTOWN GIRLS
4 LIBERATED
5 DARK BLUE
6 MY FIRST ROMANCE

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 DARK BLUE
2 WRONG TURN
3 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 LIBERATED

SM BICUTAN
7163065

1 DARK BLUE
2 LIBERATED
3 MY FIRST ROMANCE
4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

SM CITY MARILAO

OPENS
Nov. 28

SM STA. MESA
7140522 • 7161416

1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 THE RUNDOWN
3 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 LIBERATED
5 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
6 THE PHONE
7 DARK BLUE
8 MAPANUKSO
9 WRONG TURN
10 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

SM SOUTHMALL
8555888

1 THE WISHER
2 DARK BLUE
3 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 WRONG TURN
5 THE RUNDOWN
6 MAPANUKSO
7 LIBERATED
8 THE PHONE
9 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
10 MY FIRST ROMANCE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350743

1 LIBERATED
2 THE PHONE
3 THE RUNDOWN
4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5 WRONG TURN
6 MY FIRST ROMANCE
7 UPTOWN GIRLS
8 DARK BLUE
9 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
10 AMERICAN PSYCHO 2
11 DOUBLE SEDUCTION
12 SEX & ZEN 2

SM CITY DAVAO
2906888

1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 UPTOWN GIRLS
4 FREDDY VS. JASON
5 FREAKY FRIDAY
6 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

SM CITY LUCENA
(042) 7108977-80

1 THE RUNDOWN
2 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 MY FIRST ROMANCE
4 THE SUSPECT

SM MEGAMALL
6351001 • 6325401

1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
RESERVE-A-SEAT dial 6350000
2 THE RUNDOWN
3 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 DARK BLUE
5 WRONG TURN
6 IDENTITY
7 THE WISHER
8 MY FIRST ROMANCE
9 LIBERATED
10 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
11 THE PHONE
12 MAPANUKSO

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2944302

1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 MAPANUKSO
3 LIBERATED
4 MY FIRST ROMANCE

SM CITY ILOILO
3208422

1 MAPUPULANG LABI
2 RESERVED
3 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
5 MY FIRST ROMANCE
6 FREAKY FRIDAY
7 RESERVED
8 INNER SENSES

SM CITY MANILA
5220340

1 WRONG TURN
2 THE PHONE
3 THE RUNDOWN
4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5 DARK BLUE
6 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
7 MAPANUKSO
8 IDENTITY
9 MY FIRST ROMANCE
10 THE WISHER
11 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
12 LIBERATED

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 8592884

1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 FREAKY FRIDAY
4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4464585

OPENS
Nov. 21

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City • 635 9781 - 85

THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
11:30 FS/12:00 MF/2:45/5:30/8:15/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:15 END

DARK BLUE
11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:00 END

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1 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30 IMAX
2 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
3 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 10:20, 1:00, 3:40, 6:20, 9:00
4 WRONG TURN 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55
5 DARK BLUE 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55
6 IDENTITY 11:25, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50
7 MY FIRST ROMANCE 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
8 LIBERATED 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
9 WISHER 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00
10 THE RUNDOWN 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50

MATINEE PRICE: P100 THX cinema / P75 1level cinemas
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Ermita
526-7185
536-7809 to 12

1 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS - 11:10, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:00
2 THE PHONE - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
3 LIBERATED - 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
4 DARK BLUE - 11:15, 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:00
5 WISHER - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
6 WRONG TURN - 10:40, 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:30, 10:00
7 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS - 12:15, 1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30

Metro East
Marcos Hway
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682-0280

1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 THE PHONE
4 WRONG TURN
5 DARK BLUE
6 INNER SENSES
7 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
8 LIBERATED

Novaliches
935-3229 / 31

1 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 UPTOWN GIRLS
3 THE PHONE
4 TEMPTING HEART
5 MY FIRST ROMANCE
6 WRONG TURN
7 DARK BLUE
8 LIBERATED

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Imus
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IDENTITY 1	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
LIBERATED 2	WRONG TURN
UPTOWN GIRL 3	LIBERATED
THE SUSPECT 4	DARK BLUE
DARK BLUE 5	MY FIRST ROMANCE
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 6	MAPANUKSO

Bacolod
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Iloilo
(033)336-8070 to 78

MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 1	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
MY FIRST ROMANCE 2	FREAKY FRIDAY
THE SUSPECT 3	INNER SENSES
FREAKY FRIDAY 4	UNDERWORLD
MATCHSTICK MEN 5	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
6	MAPUPULANG LABI

Sta. Rosa
(049)837-0007

Lipa, Batangas
Old National Highway
Mataas na Lupa

MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 1	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
THE PHONE 2	IDENTITY
MAPUPULANG LABI 3	UPTOWN GIRLS
IDENTITY 4	MY FIRST ROMANCE
UNDERWORLD 5	UNDERWORLD

Malabon
Caloocan
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1 LIBERATED
2 MAPANUKSO
3 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 WRONG TURN

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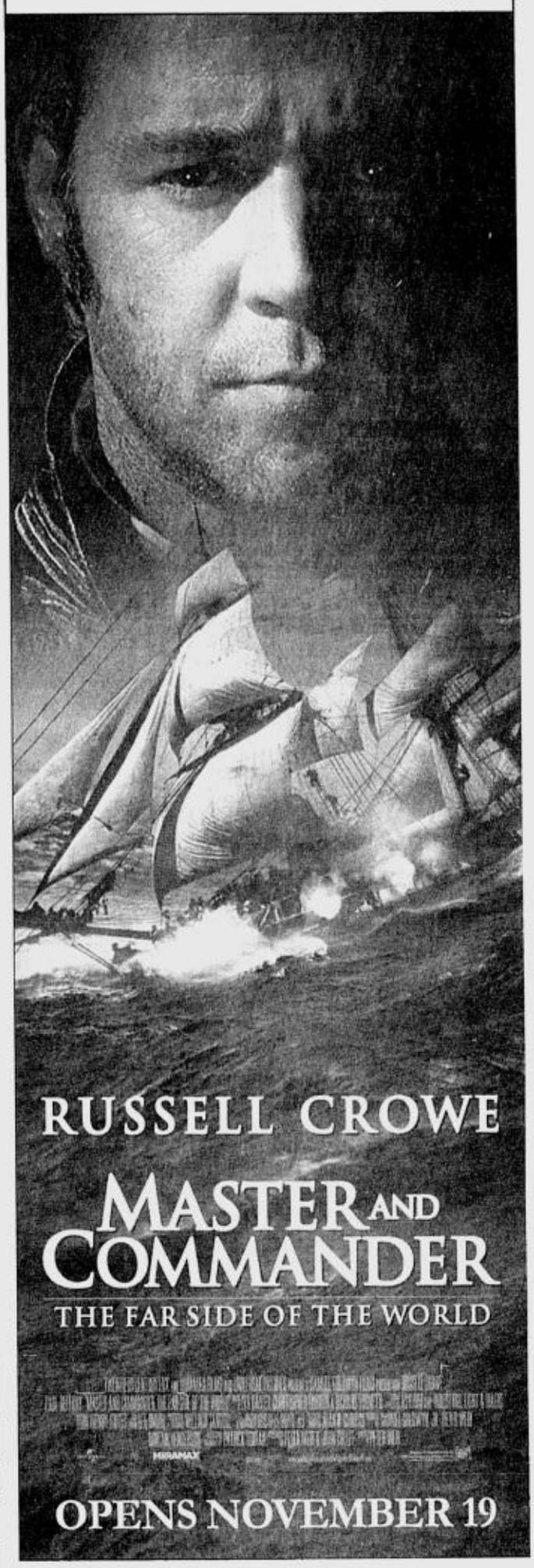

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PG13

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How to bring up kids . . .

From page C1

added to the list each year, including a number of poor barangays in Metro Manila and foundations accredited by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Collecting the donations has been made easier by the placing of donation boxes in all of Jollibee's 400 stores nationwide.

Jollibee has another project inspired by an Aga Muhlach brainchild—the employment of hearing-impaired people in Jollibee stores.

To gather more donations for "MaAGA ang Pasko sa Jolibee" this year, Aga and Jollibee yesterday held "Happy Jolliday" at the Alabang Town Center activity area, where toys and other donations served as entrance tickets.

The activity area was turned into a mini fair, with a short show featuring Aga and friends who have been supporting the project, according to Jollibee marketing manager Pinky Laurena.

"This is one way of making children aware of the needs and problems of our society," said Aga.

On Dec. 8, the actor and the fast-food chain will distribute the gifts they have collected in "MaAga ang Pasko sa Jolibee" at the San Lorenzo Village basketball court in Makati City.

"This year, I want to be with children who are really poor, not those who are already in big orphanages, who are already used to getting gifts from people every year," Aga said.

"Aga is doing this for free," said Laurena.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	MAPANUKSO
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG POTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	MAPANUKSO
B	
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-2	LIBERATED!
CINEMA-3	INNER SENSES
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-6	SIYAY NAGDADALAGA
CINEMA-7	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-8	THE PHONE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MATIRX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	DARK BLUE
CINEMA-12	WRONG TURN
CINEMA-14	MAPANUKSO
CINEMA-15	MY FIRST ROMANCE

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-2	LIBERATED
CINEMA-4	FREAKY FRIDAY

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

ALL DIGITAL SOUND
AYALA CINEMAS PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 LIBERATED	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	MONSOON WEDDING	DARK BLUE	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 DARK BLUE	2 DARK BLUE		MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	2 DARK BLUE
3 THE WISHER	4 DRUMLINE	THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN	3 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN	REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 9PM	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	4 HEAD OF STATE
	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS			5 WRONG TURN
	WRONG TURN			

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MATRIX REVOLUTIONS PG13 12:50, 3:30, 6:10, 8:50	DARK BLUE R18 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS PG13 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS PG13 12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:10	WRONG TURN R18 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS PG13 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

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1 TITANIC (ANIMATION)
2 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5 DARK BLUE
6 WRONG TURN
7 WISHER
8 MY FIRST ROMANCE
9 MAPANUKSO
10 LIBERATED

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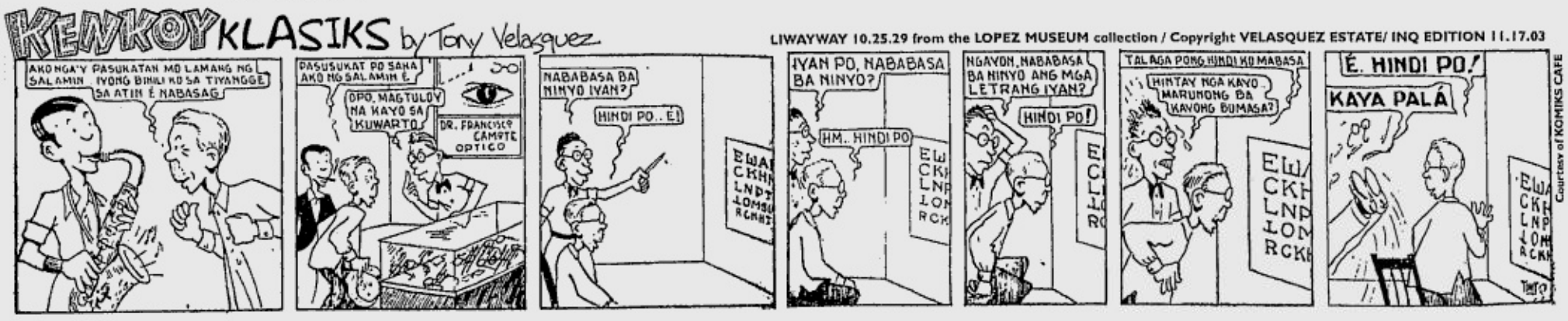

The treasures of Yamani

From page C1

Calvin Millado, Gladys Guevarra and Vernie Varga will be her special guests.

Gowns. "My most daring gown would be the one in see-through fabric that exposes my back all the way down to the top of the butt.

"I started wearing light colors only after I lost weight. Black is very forgiving. It hides a lot of secrets.

"I had to have this black dress beaded because the see-through fabric was so revealing. I don't wear bras with my gowns *pa naman*. If the fabric is too thin, I usually put stickers on the inside of the gown so that the outline of the nipples won't be too obvious.

"This Versace gown is probably my most expensive gown. I bought it for more than P30,000, at a time when I didn't have many gowns yet. I needed more because I was already starting to sing at the Hyatt and Richmonde hotels.

"I have a lot of gowns that I have not worn yet."

Jackets. "This Versace jacket is not as thick as it looks. I bought this in 2001. I felt bad when the Versace shop in Greenbelt closed down.

"I wear a trench coat on top of my long gowns. I bought the coat from Mango. I find a lot of nice clothes to wear in Mango."

Bags. "My black shoulder bag goes well with anything. I also bought a beige Ferragamo for my light-colored outfits but I hardly use it because it's too small and can accommodate only my wallet."

Lingerie. "I like underwear that is sexy, not raunchy. I buy from catalogs. I love Victoria's Secret, which also sells shoes. I e-mail my order to a friend in the States and send her the money, and the products are delivered here.

HEAD TO FOOT. She puts to bed some of her close to a hundred gowns that are either daring in design or dear in price. She also has pricey pairs, such as the P21,000 Escada (right pair at right) and the P20,000 Rene Caovilla. EGAY MONTANA

FIT TO PRINT. T-shirt for self-expression

"If I have to wear bras, they would have to be really thin. My gowns doesn't fall nicely when I wear a bra. I wear a tube top. It's really nothing great, but my friends say that when I walk, the boobs move and they go like 'whoa!'"

Tops. "This is cute. It says '30 minutes of begging does not constitute foreplay.' I think guys rush into bed too quickly. I like to wear stuff like this because I'm a humorous person. That's just my personality, although it doesn't show right away. If I'm in a long gown, that's maybe when I act different. But when I'm with my friends, I'm a clown."

Skirts. "My most expensive skirt is from Escada. It looks see-through but when you put it on, you just see outlines. People say they find this so sexy."

High heels. "These two pairs are the most uncomfortable and the most expensive shoes I've got. I bought the Escada on sale so I got it for only P21,000. I got the René Caovilla for P20,000. They're so expensive that's why they're always in their boxes and they have their own shoe bags.

"In May 2001, I was rushing to a wedding. I had this gown made but I didn't have silver shoes. I bought this pair at Via Venetto. The cashier told me it cost P20,000. I said, 'are you sure P20,000? *Sige na nga*.' I gave her the money and took the shoes."

Rubber shoes. "I love my runners. They've become my best friends. I discovered the Nike Prestos. They're like pillows. You can walk forever in these shoes. I'm always in heels when I go out, but I just want to be in my sweats and my runners when I can.

Boots. "These are from Canada. My brother said, 'you gotta get Camel. It's the in thing now.' I even had a Camel jacket to go with it and Camel jogging suit. Everyone in Canada is into jogging suits and runners."

Pants. "This pair of cargo pants is my favorite. I find the fabric so comfortable. You can wear it anywhere other than formal events, with heels or runners. When I'm wearing these cargo pants people say, 'you look so comfortable.' I am. For the most part of my life, I've been trying to look glamorous. I was already on rollers even when I was a baby. But now, I'm trying to be comfortable all the time."

Steel vault. "This is fire-proof. This is about a year old. There's nothing in here but *areglos* (musical arrangements). I had this dream that the house was on fire and all my *areglos* got burned. These are so expensive."

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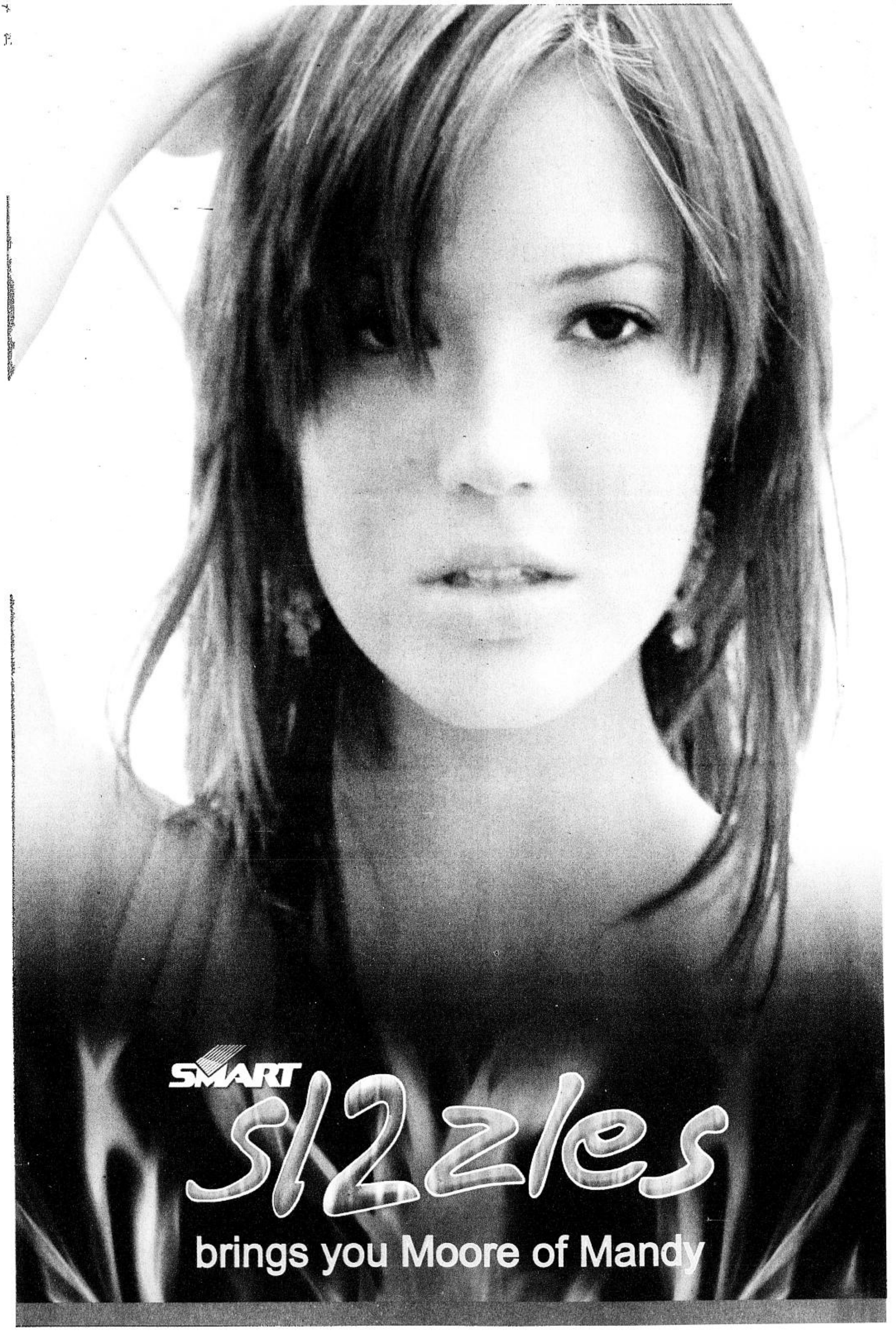

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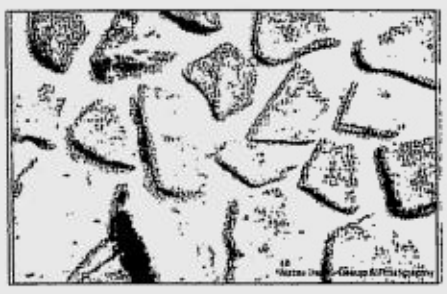
Bridge divides Cagayan de Oro people

Academics and citizens say the city government desecrated a historical site

FEMALE skull



EARTHENWARE shards

By Chic Fortich
Contributor

THE QUESTION of development versus conservation came to a head recently in Cagayan de Oro City. An archaeologist from the National Museum was asked to arbitrate between a group of academics and citizens, and the city government under Mayor Vicente Emano, which was constructing a bridge that appeared to have encroached on an historic site in Huluga. The site was declared a protected area by the National Museum in 1970 when it was discovered.

Formerly called Himulugan and situated on a promontory beside the Cagayan de Oro River, the more than two-and-a-half- hectare site was the pre-Hispanic settlement of the city's oldest known forefather, Datu Salangsang.

Historian Antonio Montalvan says research by the late Rev. Fr. Francis Madigan, S.J., showed that two Recollect friars met Datu Salangsang in 1622. While in Butuan, the friars heard of a "gentle and docile people" who lived beside the river in Cagayan. They were led by Datu Salangsang, whose grandmother was already a Christian.

The priests asked her to help them meet the grandson. She sent a messenger, who returned with the advice that the friars should not proceed or their lives would be in danger. The priests asked the grandmother to go and she returned with favorable news.

The Recollects' records say the two friars traveled upstream in the river and reached Datu Salangsang's settlement. In the long, low building that was his living quarters, the visitors found a *diwatahan*, an altar for animistic rituals, indicating Salangsang had not converted to Islam, the religion of Sultan Kudarat, to whom he paid tribute.

When Sultan Kudarat heard that two friars were trying to Christianize Salangsang, he waged war against the datu.

Salangsang was not Christianized. He sent the friars away to stop Kudarat's attacks.

Conversion

In 1625, another friar arrived in the settlement.

Fray Agustin de Pedro, a Portuguese, was skilled in architecture and gunnery. He helped the people strengthen their fortress and trained them in warfare, endearing him to Salangsang, who finally converted.

Fray Agustin later persuaded the datu to transfer his settlement downriver, where there was space even for a church. So, Salangsang moved to what is now Gaston Park, close to the San Agustin Cathedral.

Some of his people remained in the old settlement, as indicated by artifacts, including a gold coin minted between 1788 and 1802.

Shards of broken pottery, pieces of tools made of obsidian (a rare glass formed from dried volcanic magma), and others are still found in the old site. The tools must have resulted from inter-island trading with Indonesia or some Pacific islands, according to archaeologist Lee Neri.

When the city government started the new bridge, it built an access road running over the settlement, "desecrating" Datu Salangsang.

The city said it had not run over any site, having consulted the writings of Angel Bautista of the National Museum, who set coordinates in his book to mark the open site.

But Dr. Linda Burton, an archaeologist and medical anthropologist who is the director of Father Madigan's Regional Institute of Min-

BRIDGE/ D2

DATU Salangsang

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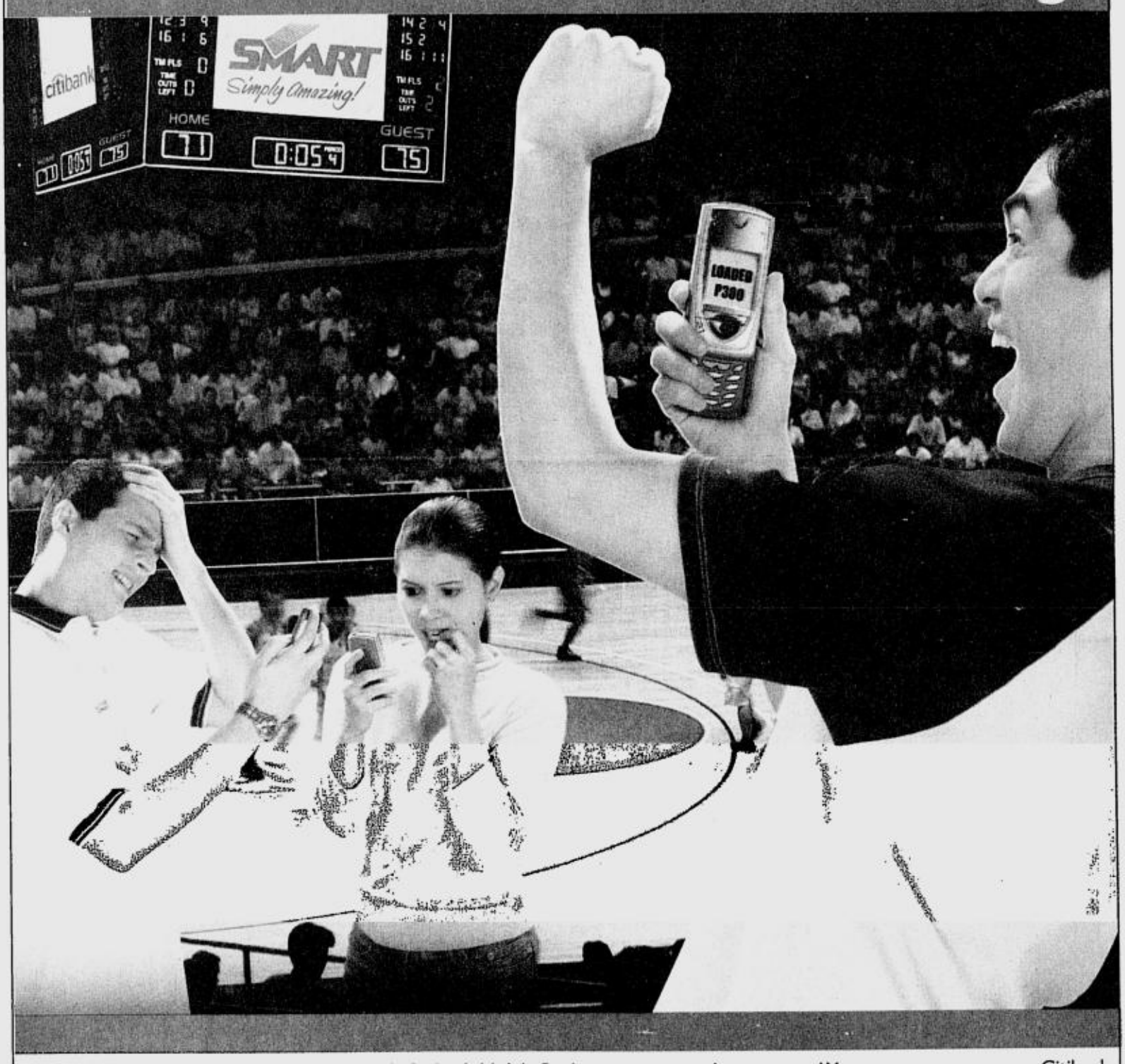

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Bridge divides Cagayan de Oro people

From page D1

ANCIENT jar

ANCIENT coins

danao Culture (RIMCU), insisted that the bridge's location was the open site, having gone there several times.

Antonio Montalvan, a historian working on his doctorate in anthropology, also insisted that it was the open site.

Luis Ostique, officer-in-charge of the Museo de Oro, who first went to the site when it was uncovered by Rev. Fr. Francisco Demetrio, S.J., in 1970, also insisted that it was.

Dr. Imelda Pagtolun-an, dean of Xavier University's College of Arts and Sciences who was at the site as a member of the Archaeological Society 1970-1974, said because the topography had changed after the place was developed, she was not sure anymore that it was the site.

But since her student days, she had identified the site through the position of the sun, so it could be the site.

She said it was unfortunate that the city started the project without first consulting experts.

Dr.Ermin Pimentel, coordinator of Xavier's Social Involvement Program, who was there recently, picked up what had clearly been a fragment of a stone-age tool, persuading him it was the site.

Dr. Burton asked the National Museum to send an expert to settle the argument. When asked what could be the worst and best scenarios, she replied, "The worst... the bridge is already there. We can't do anything about that anymore. The best would be for us to be allowed to conduct salvage archaeology and save the site."

The museum sent Sheldon Clyde Jago-on, an archaeologist, while the University of the Philippines sent Neri, whose masteral thesis in archaeology was about the site.

After three days, they concluded that the area ran over by the bridge was the open site.

Neri said he felt let down when he saw what happened to the site. Jago-on said, "Yes, but you should not pity yourselves. You should fight for what is left."

He is recommending to the city government and the museum: (1) that salvage archaeology and excavation of the site must be conducted by the National Museum, with the city paying for the cost; (2) that a museum must be set up on the site for artifacts; and, (3) that proper signage be put up warning against collection of artifacts by anyone.

City planning officer Manuel Abejuela welcomed the report saying, "After he submits his report to his superiors, we will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement so they can begin their excavation."

This should make members of the Heritage Conservation Advocates happy as well, for it will develop the site and similar places into tourist spots that will tell visitors Filipinos know how to preserve and conserve the past.

STONE and metal tools, a skull and wild boar tusks

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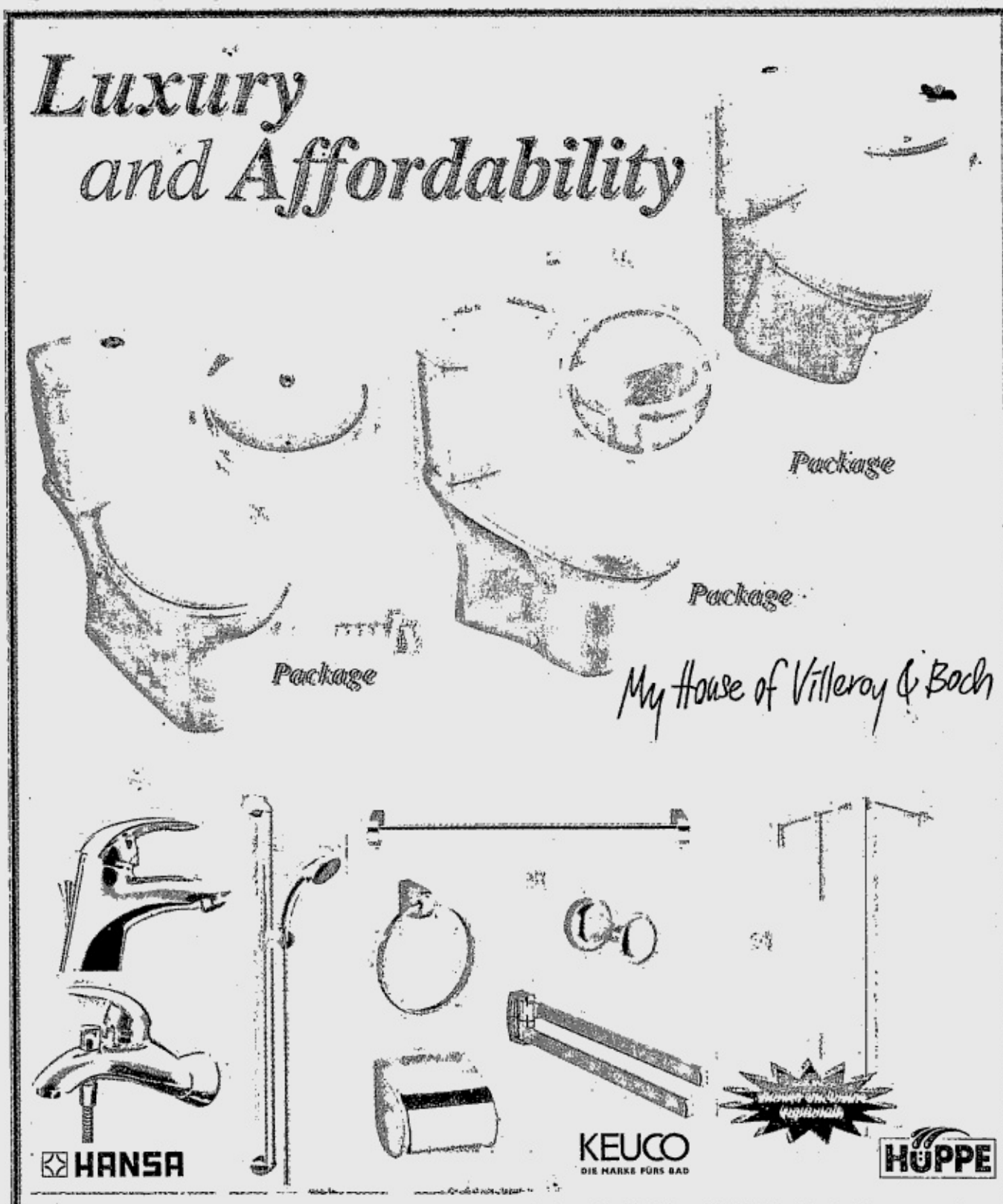

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3-day digital photography workshops

A DIGITAL photography workshop will be held at the new studio of Mandy Navasero at Rm. 207, LRI Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air 2, Makati City.

Two three-day workshops will be held in November with hands-on exercises and critique—9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday Nov. 18, 20 and 22; and Nov. 25, 27 and 29.

The workshop will cover Introduction to Photography (handling of different kinds of cameras and its functions, lenses, exposure, depth of field, capturing motions, and flash photography), Day 1.

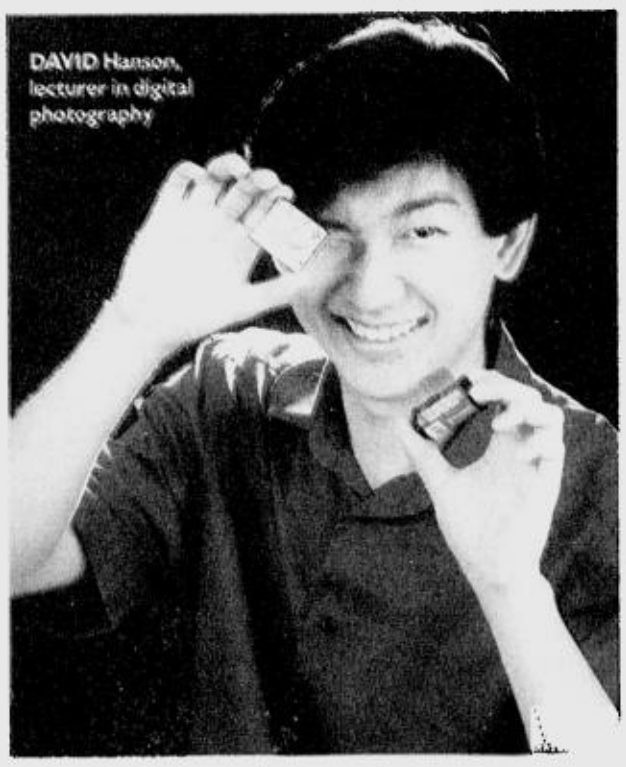
Day 2 will involve a comparative study of digital camera and traditional film cameras, a study of digital image sensors, connectivity, film speed, white balance, exposure, focal length multiplier, exchangeable image file, resolutions and dimensions, file formats and file sizes.

The necessities of a digital photographer beyond having a digital camera, including scanners, storage devices, connectivity, computers, monitors and calibrating software, will be discussed on Day 3.

Sponsors are Fuji Film, Apperture Trading and Avenue Photo Supply.

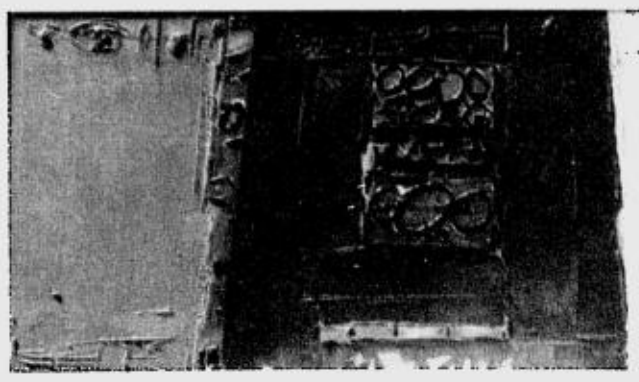
Guest lecturer is David Hanson, 27, a technical photographer. Navasero will discuss the elements of a good photograph for two hours each day.

Each three-day session costs P6,500. Call 5225189, 5221905 or 0916-7060130 or e-mail mn_photocom@i-manila.com.ph or drop by 1935 Dominga St. (near corner of Sen. Gil Puyat St.), Pasay City.



Surprising art from exotic blend

By Constantino C. Tejero



"COPPER Field"

DAN Raralio, the 42-year-old artist who effortlessly shifts from painting to sculpture, is becoming a master of mixed discipline. The crossover of materials in his work is producing a series of arresting artworks that can only be labeled "relief paintings."

One can see that in the nine pieces in acrylic, polymer paint, modeling paste, sand and copper on canvas in his recent exhibit "Copper Field" in West Gallery at Artwalk, 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall.

These are impasto paintings of either muted or incandescent color planes appliquéd with strips of copper, which are damascened with streaks and doodles of thick paint. The daubed plane is scraped or scratched in parts to form incisions exposing the canvas or the underpaint.

The metal sheet is bolted on to the canvas and covered with polyurethane to retain its sheen and keep it from tarnishing. The artist explains that since polymer paint is rigid, the surface must be stable, thus the metal has to be thick so it won't warp in the process.

The pieces are arranged in the gallery in three groupings of three. "Meridian," "Marker" and "Massif" are in white monochrome broken by the reddish brown of the copper.

"Perimeter," "Passage" and "Tower" are in red, blue and green, respectively. "Eastern Hoard," "Landmark" and "Copper Field" are in red, brown, black and white.

Their impact on the viewer comes from the combination of materials, their densities on the canvas, the spontaneous brushstrokes ("free-flowing gestural strokes converging in the copper field"), the play on contrasting textures ("copper with its warm fiery luster and deep intense glow contrasting with the thick pasty texture of the impasto").

Their titles notwithstanding, the artworks are about medium and process instead of subject matter. All the pieces are abstraction, quite a departure from the artist's figurative works in the neoclassical and surrealist modes.

Conceptual sculpture

In painting, Raralio used to do landscape, still life, the human figure. In sculpture, he started with relief in synthetic marble or concrete, before doing sculpture in the round using live cast of the human body.

The neoclassic figures can be seen in his public art, in the four Greek maidens at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque, or in the elaborate high-relief frieze on the architrave of Shangri-La Hotel in Makati.

Then there are the sculptural representations of body parts (hands, breasts, torsos, angel wings), surrealist depictions inspired by classical mythology; and the famous pillow series, in synthetic marble molded to look like fluffy pillows then embellished with various household objects in copper and stainless steel.

A product of University of the Philippines from grade school through college, with a degree in Fine Arts, major in Painting, Raralio is not only a painter and sculptor but also a product designer, jewelry designer and teacher.

The variety of artists he admires proves wide as well: Antoni Tàpies, Rothko, Motherwell, Vermeer, Van Gogh, Bonnard, Pissarro, Toulouse-Lautrec, the Conceptual sculptors Anthony Caro and Richard Serra, and, of the locals, Lee Aguinaldo, Gus Albor, Lao Lianben (certain works).

"Some artists I only like for particular works," he adds. "*Hindi ko masyado* type *si* De Kooning, *pero kumukuha rin ako* elements from his work. I consult the details in his art for my own. I refocus my taste, depending on what phase of my artistic life I am in. Artists change."

Raralio received the 13 Artists award from the Cultural Center of the Philippines. For years he has been known foremost as a sculptor, but in this his 13th solo show, he has reasserted his painterly art, and even found perfect marriage for both.

Roque's vibrant reliefs

Textured painting has become a trend in the art world. This is evolving into what is better described as "relief on canvas," an art form that's halfway between painting and sculpture, as exemplified in the local art scene by the works of Roberto Robles, Tony Twiggs and Raralio.

Not as well-known is Jaime Reyes Roque, but this artist produces relief paintings that are no less accomplished. His mastery was in full display in a recent eponymously titled exhibit in Renaissance at Artwalk.

Many of these 26 pieces in acrylic incorporate strips of fabric. In the "Full Moon" series, threads and swatches of canvas and jute are glued on the color plane and daubed, amid a monochrome of brown or blue-green, with a yellow or gold circle representing the moon.

In some pieces, such as "Yellow Square," small squares of canvas are pasted side by side or overlapping to form bigger squares or other geometric shapes, then daubed with acrylic.

The most sculptural of the pieces are those that incorporate small canvas-covered plywood squares and overlapping plywood triangles. Here, the form has fully evolved into relief.

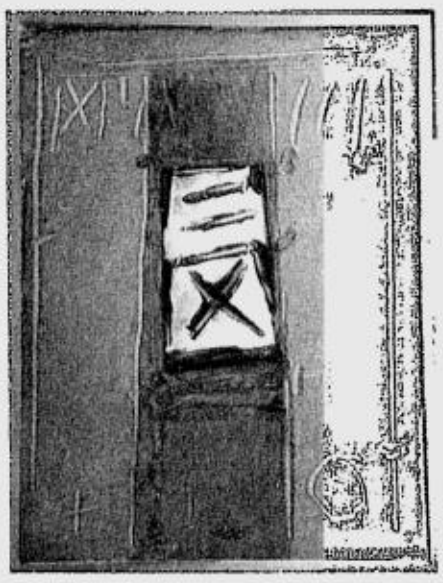
A series of pieces uses dots, blobs and dashes of acrylic in various combinations of colors, neatly arranged to form patterns. The colors and patterns effectively create vibrancy, surprising and pleasing to the eyes.

Texture and color

Often the artist uses versatex, a special

SURPRISING/ D4

"PERIMETER"



"PASSAGE"

BAYANI RAY ACALA AND CLAIRELYNN UY

Of ribald games and whimsical images

"BUTTERFLYED Magnolia"

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

AN art show replete with images of romantic dalliances and flirtatious escapades may well signal the advent of eroticism so desperately missing in today's art scene.

And considering the stuff the media and local movies have been serving a long-suffering, politically distraught populace in the name of entertainment, the art of Bayani Ray Acala may also be a most welcome diversion.

In his first show, "La Pleine Lune," (Full Moon) at the Galerie Joaquin, Acala explores a gallery of characters engaged in games of courtship, seduction and dishabille, mainly women playing an amalgam of roles in cinematically staged settings.

The overall atmosphere is charged with libidinal power, with visions of fetishistic countenance as conjured by various musical instruments and feline creatures, and the artist's lunar leitmotif sensuously cradling the main object of desire.

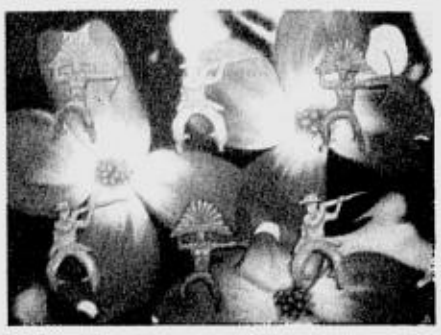
Acala's kind of art has an overpowering voyeuristic appeal as can be gleaned from the protagonists' provocative poses, most of which are invariably caught by his probing brush in arduously heightened sensations.

Earth-bound goddesses

Whether sprawled on a couch, napping on a sofa, playing a clarinet, or lying totally naked on a chair, Acala's women are carnal yet somehow benign in character, exuding the voluptuous aura of earth-bound goddesses.

With their off-shoulder apparel, wind-tousled hair and full and luscious lips, the women betray their Oriental modesty by asserting their femininity in the presence of men as spurned suitors, lovers masquerading as musicians and modern troubadours.

"ABBY Moth"



"DOGWOOD Cowboys and Indians"

Not all the canvases, however, are inhabited by women. The artist has also painted a suite of still lifes—*capiz* windows jutting out into lunar landscapes and strange-colored spiky sunflowers, as well as women musicians performing—but these are perhaps better regarded as elaboration, like details, of his larger and all-encompassing theme.

Like the artists Marcel Antonio and Dominic Rubio whom he seeks to emulate, Acala has found his niche rather early in his fledgling career, and he has, in the process, undoubtedly made his mark.

It is a show concededly full of youthful vigor and wit, and, expectedly, his art will, in time, come into its own, perhaps with greater inventiveness, intensity—and, thank Eros, sexual maturity.

Surreal spaces

Even more unprepossessing in its pursuit of innovativeness, the work of Clairelynn Uy delves into the whimsical and the fantastical realm of postmodern art.

In her sixth show wittily titled "Remix," at the Liongoren Gallery, the Cavite-based artist belonging to the Anting-Anting Group evokes both the real and unreal, indeed surreal, spaces as well as the literal and the allegorical.

Having explored a great deal of surreal imagery in her past shows, Uy now combines disparate and contrasting, even opposing, elements in her subjects, like plastic toys and real flowers, dolls and moths, and other configurations that may alter and challenge our preconceived notions of harmony and chaos, reality and fantasy.

Enamored with the concept of play and its effect on the creative process, Uy, who is married to artist Joseph Lofranco, draws from her vast collection of children's toys, merging them with elemental anthropomorphic objects such as multihued flowers rendered in overlarge Georgia O'Keeffe style.

The primal force of Uy's art lies in her exploration of the nature and experience of creation, and her artistic interventions in defying the space, scale and conventions of ambiguity. Hence, the idea of remixing, as suggested by the show's title, is itself a totally intriguing experience.

And, as her works prove, the result is pure magic. Finally, too, her alternative feminist views come off as intimately personal and impiously divine as creation itself.

E-mail author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com

Surprising . . .

From page D3

mixture of sand, for texture. In certain pieces, the mess application is so thick one gets the impression the canvas has been smeared or splattered with mud, with bits of gravel as add-on.

"Gold Mine," a small vertical impasto piece in a monochrome of brown and black with reddish streaks, captures through texture and abstraction the gloom and doom of that world what glossy hyperrealism can certainly not.

In most pieces, though, Roque uses bright or bold colors, solid but flat, and forms that are finely drawn and meticulously arranged.

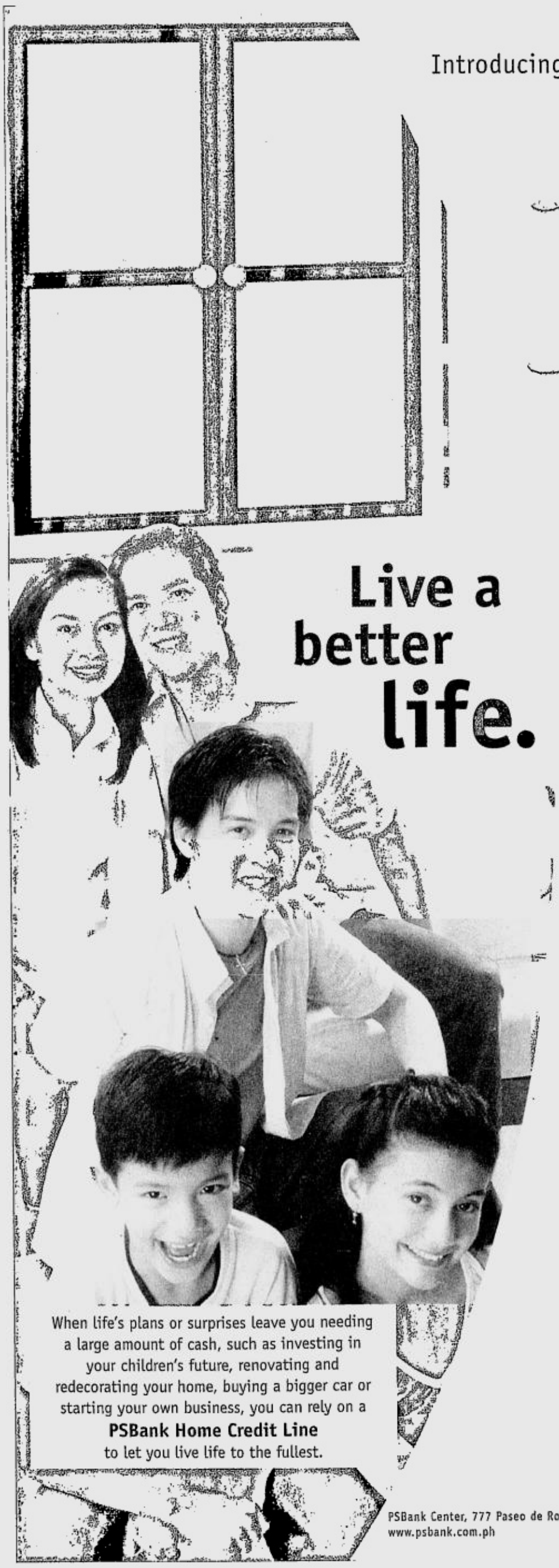
In "Metro City," the geometric shapes of pink, blue, ochre, brown and gray create what looks like Pucci print. In another piece, the crisscrossing planes of blue, green and yellow could have been blades of grass from a naïf by Rousseau.

Roque may not be too well-known to a young generation of art lovers, but he used to be a perennial finalist in art contests such as the Asean Art Award, the Art Association of the Philippines Annual Art Competition, the Philippine National Bank Art Competition.

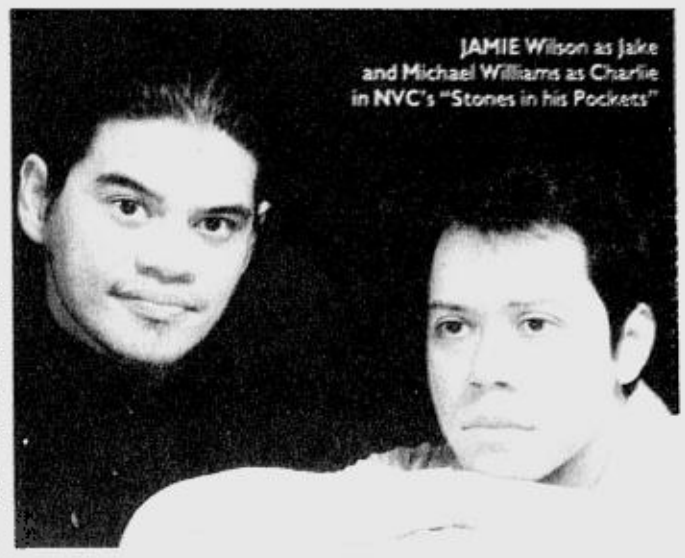
Some of his works are displayed in the National Museum, the Central Bank, the Philippine International Convention Center, the Malaysian Palace.

A Fine Arts graduate from Philippine Women's University, he received a government grant for art scholarship in California. He had exhibited in the United States, Singapore, Australia, Saudi Arabia.

In this his latest exhibit, he has achieved two significant things. Here, he is not just exploring the possibilities of relief painting but is also actually reviving Op Art.



Irish hamlet squares off against Hollywood epic in new play



JAMIE Wilson as Jake and Michael Williams as Charlie in NVC's "Stones in his Pockets"

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

IN NEW Voice Company's (NVC) new play "Stones in His Pockets," a rustic, backward town in Ireland rails and fights against the invasion of a Hollywood film company mounting an epic literally in its small backyard.

This David-vs-Goliath scenario brings to stage life many of the progressive theater company's favorite themes such as alienation and imperialism, psychological and cultural slavery, and empowerment.

But, this time around, it's the men, and not NVC's staple of actresses, who take up the cudgels. And only two actors— Jamie Wilson and Michael Williams—act the sociocultural war by playing out a dozen characters ranging from a temperamental screen siren to a bitter old man.

A couple of actors simultaneously portraying the rest of the characters has been done on stage before. "The Mystery of Irma Vep" and "The Woman in Black"—coincidentally both horror thrillers—are the most recent productions that used this approach.

But while "Irma Vep" and "Woman in Black" used the traditional set changes, dimming of lights and lightning-flash wardrobe wizardry to effect the transformation, both Wilson and Williams, under Rito Asilo's direction, hope to do it by pure acting.

Challenge

The NVC trio agree that the speed by which the roles shift without benefit of dimming lights or a coat hastily thrown in poses a challenge in maintaining not just the credibility of the story as it develops, but in holding the audience's attention throughout without confusing them.

In Marie Jones' script, a Hollywood movie set literally camps in a small Irish town composed of thatched roofs and grasslands. With a population that does not even reach into the thousands, everybody knows everybody. The days are long, the pace is slow, and most people seem content with their ordinary lives.

But soon enough, the larger movie crew dominates the little town, enticing the people's loyalty with technology and new jobs that would revitalize the moribund economy.

At first, the townspeople are mesmerized by the Hollywood spell. Housewives would move out of their own homes and offer their quaint, crampy living rooms as mini-motels for the cast and crew. The shooting takes place for four days—but it's enough for the dark side of moviemaking to come out, shocking the townspeople into silent rage.

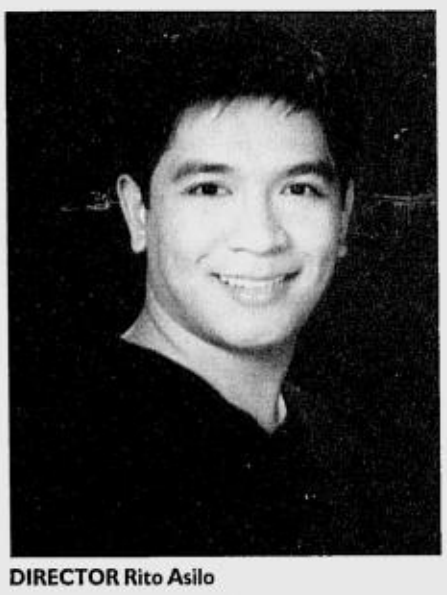
"Impersonal Hollywood blends with the small town," Asilo describes the story's political kick. "One of the locals die, and this affects everybody. First of all, he's not taken as an extra, which adds to his depression.

"Then when he makes a pass at the superstar, he gets thrown out of his own bar, out of his own town, out of the land he lived in all his life! During his funeral, the townspeople, who are his distant relatives, are forbidden by the Hollywood director to attend because it's a working day and they have to act as extras!"

This pivotal character dies by committing suicide. He sinks to the bottom of the lake, thanks to the number of stones he puts into his pockets. That's one meaning of the title.

Wilson gives another by likening the predicament of the town to "big multinationals coming to a small country where they work the pay scale and give everybody employment. But afterward, they leave a void and the changes are not all positive. At first, the townspeople play the Hollywood game. All they see is the money they will make from Hollywood, though their culture is not being accurately portrayed."

In one of the funny, biting moments of the play, the director commands that the cows in the field be replaced by "fluffier ones—because they're not Irish enough!"



DIRECTOR Rito Asilo

Burden

The burden of giving flesh and voice to the motley cast of characters that belong to either the Irish hamlet or the Hollywood epic falls on the acting shoulders of Wilson and Williams. The career shifts are made easier by the script's focus on two core players.

The first man, Charlie, played by Wilson, is a disillusioned actor who loves the movies but failed the New York casting calls. Wilson describes him, "Now he's gone back home, living on the dole, cynical and burned."

His counterpoint, Jake, played by Williams, is another fallen guy but one who is still willing to stand up and fight. "He is a failed screenwriter, but he loves the movies, too, and he used to run a video shop. Now, the arrival of a big video chain closes down his business. So he packs up and leaves. As an extra in

IRISH/ E2

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   b. The Grand Draw will be held on January 30, 2004 at 6pm.
      i. The winners to be drawn for the Grand Draw are as follows:
         1. 1 Grand Prize Winner
            a. P10,000 per board purchased
            b. Maximum of P100,000
         2. 3 Regional Prizes (1 Luzon, 1 Visayas & 1 Mindanao)
            a. P5,000 per board purchased
            b. Maximum of P50,000 per winner
         3. 35 Key Winners (15 Luzon, 10 Visayas, 10 Mindanao)
            a. P1,000 per board purchased
            b. Maximum of P10,000 per winner
         4. 300 Bonus Winners (100 per region)
            a. P200 Gift Certificates from Jollibee per winner (not per board)
      ii. Only entries received by the end of January 15, 2004 will be included in the Grand Draw. Gathered raffle entries will be under the custody of Junie Rondon, Marketing Manager, James Hardie Philippines, Inc. at James Hardie Plant, Brgy. San Isidro, Cabuyao, Laguna.
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       ii. Maximum of P5,000 per winner
    c. Key Winners
       i. P500 Jollibee Gift Certificates per winner
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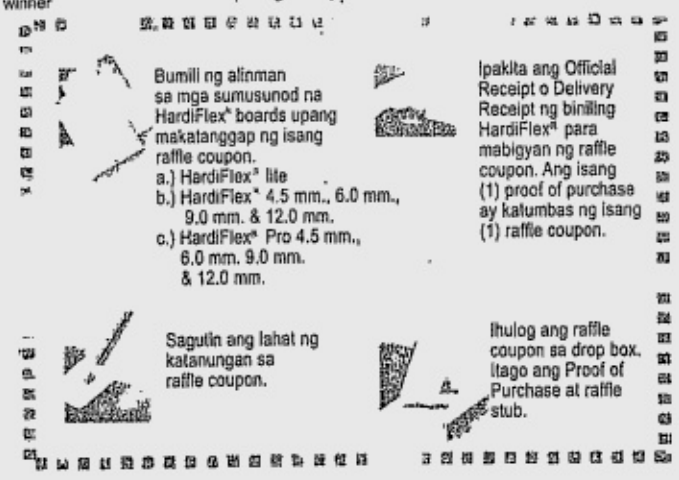
2. Sealed drop boxes shall be collected on January 15, 2004 and be brought to James Hardie Plant, Brgy. San Isidro, Cabuyao, Laguna under the custody of Junie Rondon, Marketing Manager. A DTI representative will be invited to be present in the opening of drop boxes and during the drawing of winners.



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Foreign, Filipino musicians enliven local music scene

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

German, Japanese and Filipino performers fuse their talents in Toyota Classics while three Korean sisters render chamber music

"TOYOTA Classics: A World of Harmony" was brought to life once more at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Main Theater. The cconcerts were sponsored by Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. (TMOC) and Toyota Motor Corp.

German, Japanese and Filipino artists fused talents, letting the audience experience what George S.K. Ty, chair of TMOC, called a "night of splendor."

The Toyota concert is not just an artistic event but pursues the corporation's program for socioeconomic development. This year, TMOC donated P1 million to Gawad Kalinga Community Development Foundation.

Recently the local cultural-musical scene was also enriched by the performance of the Korean Huh Trio, composed of three sisters who are capable soloists. Their "Concert for Peace and Friendship" marked the 50th anniversary of the end of the Korean War.

Silky, well-blended sound

At the Toyota concert, the Northeast German Philharmonic Orchestra (NGPO), composed of nearly 60 musicians, and led by young Japanese conductor Koji Kawamoto, was a standout. Local music lovers heard symphonic sound that was so silky and well-blended.

Even the Philippine National Anthem was given a classy, sublime and stirringly noble rendition. Relatively a small orchestra, the German group's sound had a lot of finesse and refinement.

Kawamoto wielded the baton so articulately and with authority. Except for the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in E Minor, Op. 64, which German violinist Susanna Henkel played outstandingly, and the two arias rendered by our very own soprano, Rachelle Gerodias, the conductor committed to memory all symphonic scores.

Weber's Overture to "Oberon" and Dvorak's Symphony No. 8 in G Major, Op. 88 were rendered so magnificently. Kawamoto's dynamism was seen in the rich tonal colors the orchestra produced, and the clear delineation of symphonic thematic ideas brushed with a most sensitive touch.

Henkel, playing on a 1705 Giovanni Battista Rogerius violin, was divine. The bowing was articulate, producing pleasant, relaxed tones. She blended technical proficiency with sensitivity and the audience listened in awe to the Mendelssohn opus. The second movement was particularly moving.

Gerodias sang German and French arias. She was a despondent Pamina in "Ach, ich fuhl's" ("Magic Flute") and optimistic in "Je dis que rien ne m'epouvante" ("Carmen"). Her voice has matured, its lyrical sheen made more alluring by her agility in conquering lower, middle and upper registers all with astounding ease.

Since 1990, the country's music lovers had been treated almost annually to classy performances through Toyota Classics. An impressive turnout of ticket-buying concert-goers had been observed the past two years. "Got my money's worth (*sulit*), said a member of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

The stage was striking, elegant, understated and well-lighted. The motto "Toyota Classics, A World of Harmony" on white background, designed by Monino Duque, floated luminously.

Chamber music

At the CCP Little Theater, the Huh Trio was a welcome treat for chamber-music afficionados. The sisters, all surnamed Huh—Seung, piano; Hee Jung, violin; and Yun Jung, cello—all studied abroad. They fused their talents in 1996 and became one of Korea's leading chamber ensembles. Highlights of the performance were the two Schostakovich piano trios: Piano Trio No.1, Op. 8 and Piano Trio No.2, Op.67.

Tight rapport was held throughout their playing, with the piano taking the lead. Perhaps the piano (Bossendorfer) was opened fully because of its dry sound. Appropriate gestures cued the musicians perfectly.

The piano and the cello sounded well, but the violin was at times wanting in sensitivity. Tonal production was elegant. It would have been more electrifying if the violin's tones were more palpable.

The Haydn number, Piano Trio No. 45 in E flat Major, was superbly rendered, with a clear projection of stylistic nuances. Listeners somehow tuned out in the three successive Strauss waltzes—"Blue Danube," "Tales from the Vienna Woods" and "Die Fledermaus."

After a while, the playing seemed mechanical, the "oom pah pah" beat becoming too pronounced, overshadowing the gracious delineation of thematic materials. They were just too many for the ears to endure.

But the concert was certainly an opportunity for Manila's music lovers to experience the rare beauty of chamber music such as a piano trio.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Why not an opera called 'Wimpy'?

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

The Davide impeachment issue is a rich material for opera

THE TANGLED political scene in the last two months has made me wish that a librettist take advantage of the political absurdity and write a full-length opera tentatively titled "Wimpy."

The working theme should be youth and abuse of power. I think Verdi's "Don Carlo" can't match that.

The challenging role should be that of Wimpy Fuentebella, the leader of the Brat Pack, with his youthful but shameless peers as the chamber chorus. The most dignified role should be that of Chief Justice Hilario Davide, representing the voice of reason.

The many rallies that have been held will be played up in the drama. The revolution in "Les Miserables" would pale in comparison with those.

Would Ryan Cayabyab or Fr. Manuel Maramba pick up the challenge of writing such a contemporary opera?

* * *

The orchestral performance and ballet of Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana" were a gem. Choreography was by Alice Reyes.

The chorus and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) were excellently led by incoming PPO music director Eugene Fredrick Castillo. With this performance, Manila's music lovers realized that the new PPO season under Castillo is worth waiting for.

* * *

Is everybody fleeing the country because of Wimpy and the Brazen 80?

Not Korean flutist Hae Won Shin, who is one of the guest artists in the annual St. Cecilia's Concert on Nov. 22 in St. Scholastica's College St. Cecilia's Hall.

Other artists are pianist Greg Zuniega and Virginia Villanueva.

Shin is soloist of the Manila Symphony Orchestra II in Mercadante's Concerto for Flute and Orchestra. The challenge of playing the piece is not lost on her.

"The concerto is brilliant and dramatic and technically challenging music," she told the INQUIRER. "It is also well-written for flute and has beautiful melodies."

Shin was last heard in the Ramon Magsaysay Awards last year with Chief Justice Davide in the audience.

Sizing up Filipino music lovers, the flutist realized Filipinos connected very well with Italian music.

"In the Philippines, it is challenging to focus on making music because there is a good audience who enjoys classical music," she said.

In a world constantly threatened by terrorists, Shin believes classical music will survive.

"Classical music will survive because it describes human nature with sincerity," she said. "It conveys feeling effectively and soothes the soul. I believe classical music can unify people even if they have differences in belief and race."

Here and there

Tenor Gary del Rosario, who is now resident artist of Seattle Opera, got married to an Italian soprano on Oct. 24. He is now preparing for a major role in Cosi fan tutti... Hiyas Hila was the pianist in a performance of Beethoven "Trio No. 2" in California. Her performance was very well-received. Among those who watched her was incoming PPO music director and conductor Eugene Fredrick Castillo... World-renowned Italian tenor Franco Corelli passed away last week at 82. He was last heard in Manila with Renata Tebaldi in the late '70s. When I told Luciano Pavarotti in a '94 presscon that Corelli had been heard in Manila before him, the Modena-born tenor said he'd consider himself lucky just to have one-fourth of Corelli's talent...

Oliver Salonga got lusty bravos when he performed Chopin's Ballade in G as a special number in a community ball in Florida. He was assigned on the keyboard in the performance of "Firebird" Suite performed by the school orchestra. He was assigned the Cesar Franck sonata for his chamber music assignment. He was accelerated in several music subjects when the school found he was far ahead academically and performance-wise.

My condolence to the family of the music pedagogue Sister Scholastica Benitez, who passed away on Oct. 15. She was the first Filipino dean of the music department of St. Scholastica's College. She was also assigned in Legazpi City and Bacolod, where she was active in the cultural scene.

Irish hamlet . . .

From page E1

this epic, he goes around carrying his script, hoping to be able to show it to the right person in the movie set."

As Jake and Charlie start interacting with the town and its invading movie set, other characters appear, played by both Williams and Wilson. There's the temperamental perfectionist movie star Caroline, said to be patterned after Tom Cruise. The oldest local, Mickey, never lets anyone forget that he is the lone surviving extra of John Ford's "The Quiet Man."

Then there are the local youths taking drugs. A tough lady assistant director keeps ramming it in everyone's throat that she is in charge. And, of course, there's the angsty suicidal Shaun whose death unwittingly puts the town at a crossroads. .

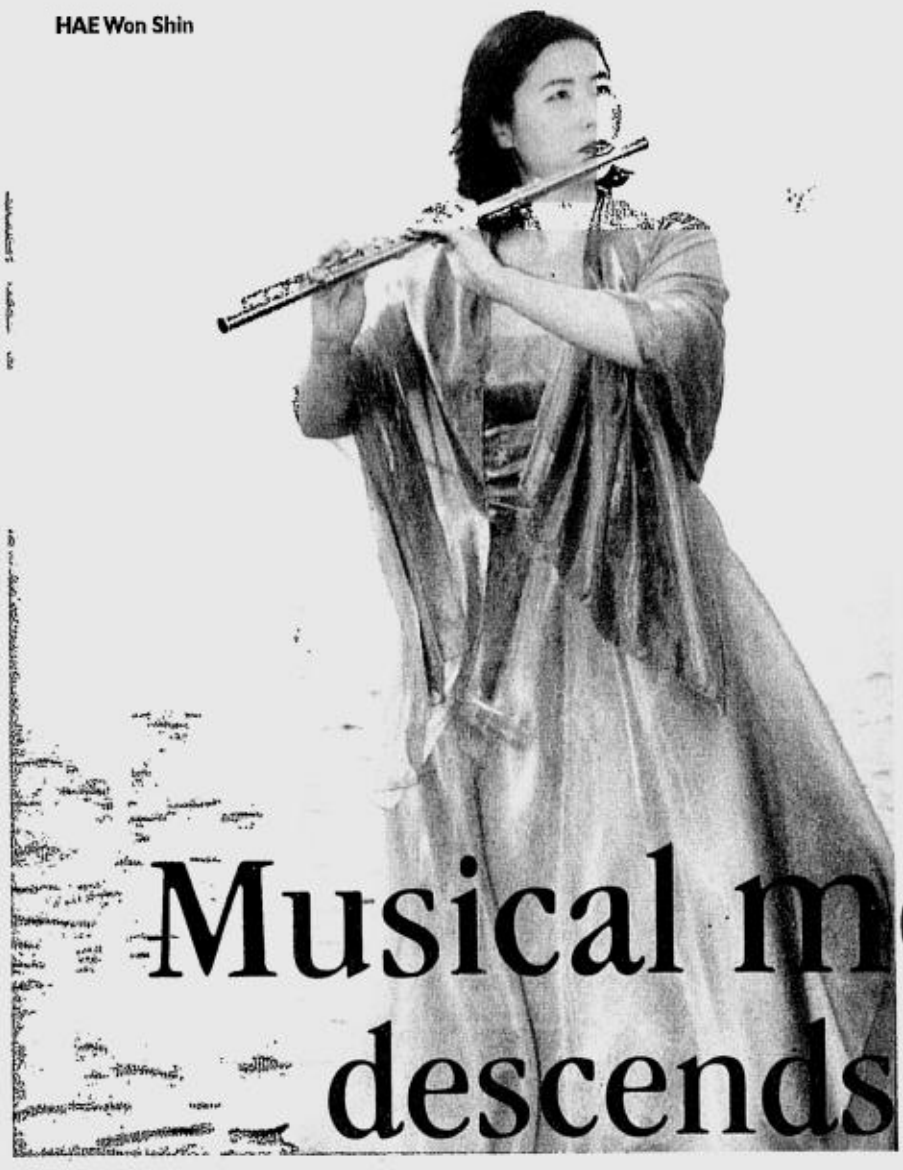
Asilo says that the script starts off as a light comedy. The fluctuating change in characters always has the danger of falling into slapstick. But by the second act, the tone gets darker, the perspective grimmer.

The actors and the director won't give the ending away. Regardless of how the audience reacts to the ending, the universal dilemma it poses is bound to linger.

Williams sums it up, "You have this alien body in the system, the studio, which comes into this community, without knowing and understanding the local culture. The people go to it at first because they want the stardom and the actors. But, is all that really good for them?"

"Stones in His Pockets" runs in the Republic of Malate on Nov. 21-29. Call 8966695 and 8990630.

HAE Won Shin



Korean flutist Hae Won Shin stirs appreciation for classical music in vapid Manila

VIRGINIA Villanueva

GREG Zuniega

Musical morning calm descends on Manila

By Alex Y. Vergara

WHEN Manila-based Korean flutist Hae Won Shin and a group of Filipino classical musicians went to Seoul a few years ago, an immigration officer was surprised to see the musicians lugging with them boxes upon boxes of musical instruments.

"Not that he was skeptical of their capabilities," Hae explains. "He just wasn't used to seeing Filipino musicians other than singers and pianists."

Filipino musician Virginia Villanueva had a different experience also in Korea. For the first time in her career as a classical pianist, she was mobbed in Seoul after playing before an audience composed mainly of teenagers.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I expect something like that to happen," says Villanueva, who, like most classical musicians in the country, supplements her income by teaching piano lessons in her Ayala Alabang home.

Hae also teaches the flute at St. Scholastica's College's music department. She's proud of the fact that the Filipino musicians she played with in Seoul got paid good money.

If anything, these incidents only show how Koreans take classical music seriously.

Unlike in the Philippines where awareness of and appreciation for classical music are declining, in South Korea there seems to be a concerted effort to expose kids early on to the music of Bach, Beethoven, Chopin and other classical greats.

"In (South) Korea, almost every town has a piano room where kids can take turns playing the piano," says Hae. "Most parents encourage their kids to learn how to play a musical instrument."

Of course, not all of them end up as accomplished musicians. But early exposure to music, says Hae, helps foster creativity among children.

Research has also shown that music broadens children's imagination as they cope with schoolwork, especially math.

In the case of needy but talented youngsters, music provides them with hope as well as a ticket out of poverty.

These kids will be the beneficiaries of this year's St. Cecilia's concert, an annual event organized by the St. Scholastica's Music Alumnae Association.

The concert, which also features the SSC Chamber Choir, is slated this Saturday, Nov. 22, at the St. Cecilia's Hall of St. Scholastica's College.

The Manila Symphony Orchestra II, with Arturo Molina conducting, will accompany Hae as she plays Constancio de Guzman's "Sarung Bangui" and Yeong Sup Choi's "Kum Kang Mountain."

She chose the two songs as a way of paying tribute to her Filipino and Korean audience. She'll also be playing "Concerto in E Minor" by Italian composer Severino Mercadante.

"Filipinos are quite hard to please," says Hae, a music graduate of Julliard School in New York. She also earned a master's degree in arts and education from Columbia University. The mother of two moved from New York to Manila a little over three years ago with her husband, a Korean businessman.

Hae chose what she feels is a "balanced" repertoire for Filipinos who are generally not fond of serious music, but feel cheated just the same if a musician plays so-so stuff.

That's why she saw to it that the relatively popular pieces she'll be playing are given more complex arrangements. The late Redentor Romero, a good friend of Hae, for example, arranged her version of "Sarung Bangui."

Villanueva and fellow Filipino pianist Greg Zuniega will play Borodin's "Polovtzian Dances," Rachmaninoff's Suite No. 2, Op. 17 and Ravel's "La Valse."

She spent her first three years of college at St. Scholastica's before finishing her music degree at the Chicago Conservatory College. She went on to take up a master's degree in piano at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore.

"This will be the first time in the alumnae association's history that a foreigner (Hae) will play solo," says Villanueva. "The number of classical musicians may be getting fewer, but the environment is getting broader."

Before classical music completely loses its appeal to a new generation of Filipinos, Sr. Mary Placid, dean of St. Scholastica's College of Music, saw the need to promote it among the poor.

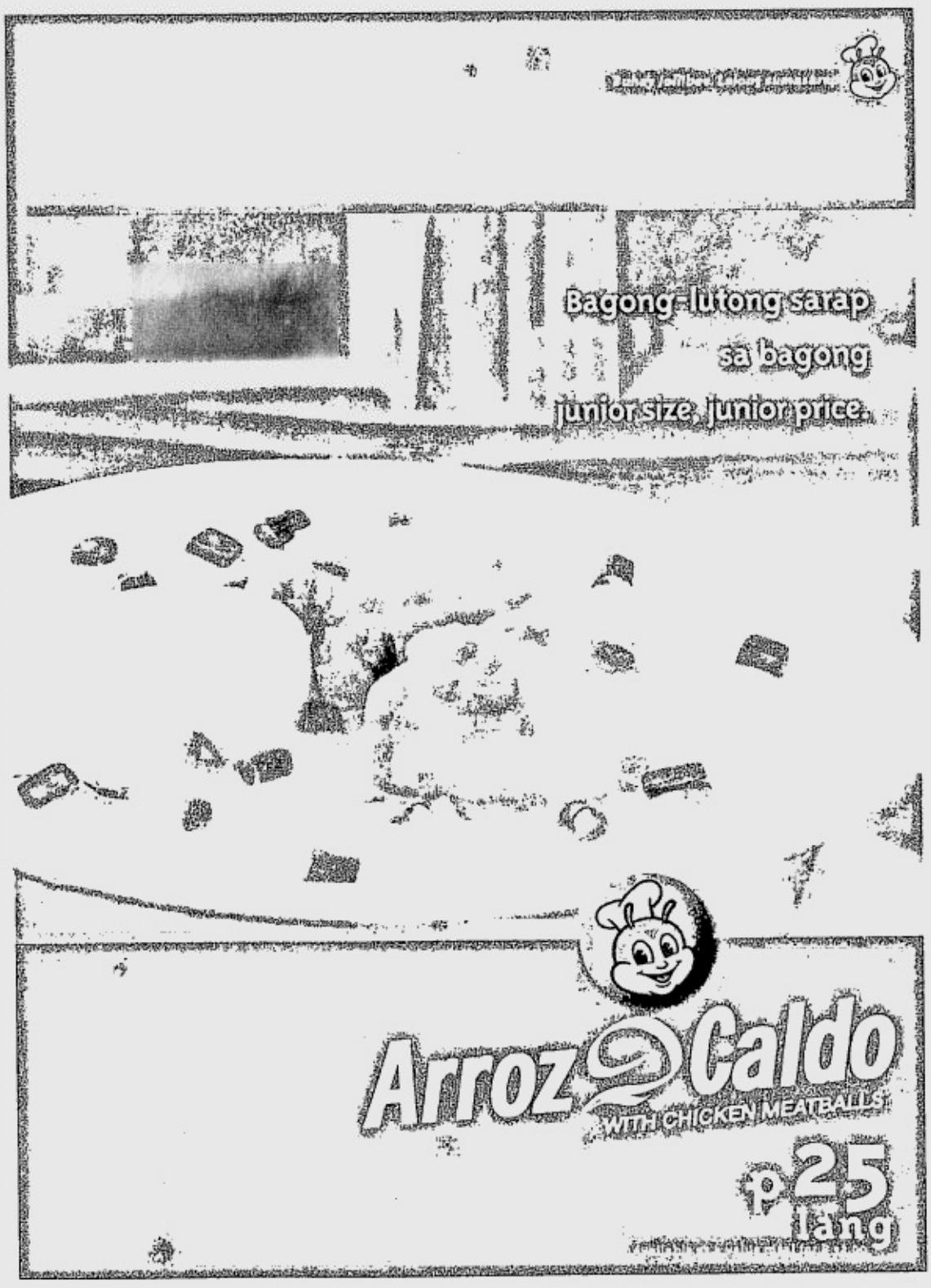
A number of teachers from St. Scholastica's plan to scour public schools next year in search of deserving talents and to take note of the type of instruments they'll be needing. Part of the concert's proceeds will fund this cause.

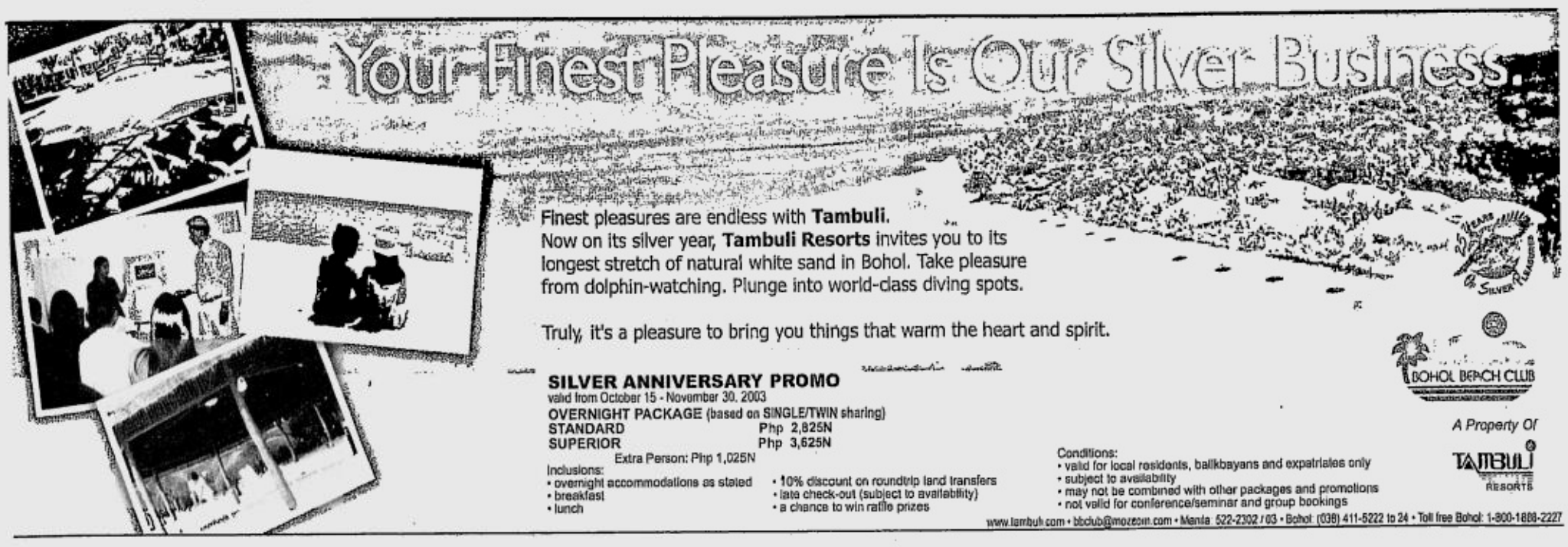
For her part, Hae has pledged to help the school solicit used instruments, especially flutes, from Korea.

She has likewise promised to teach the flute for free to interested scholars. "Classical music is a viable option to poor but musically gifted children," she says. Talent, after all, knows neither race nor social class.

Call 0919-4211702, 0917-8991047, 0917-8395608 or 5268080.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph





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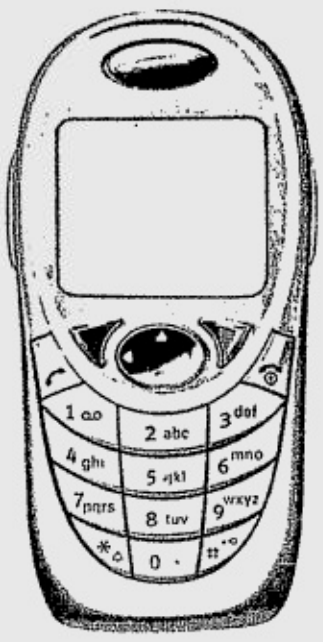

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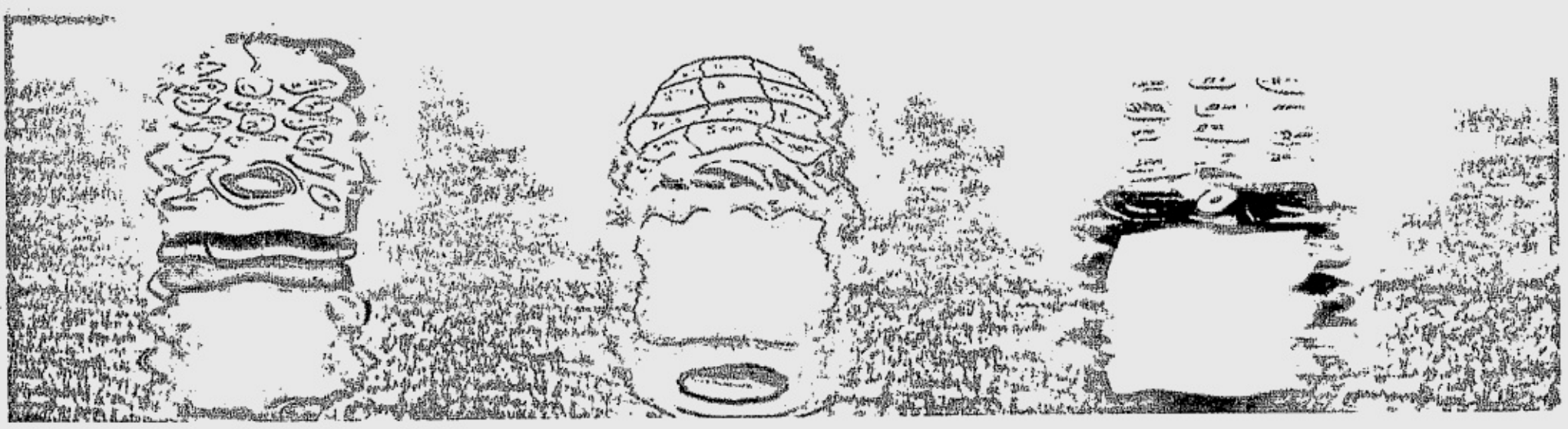

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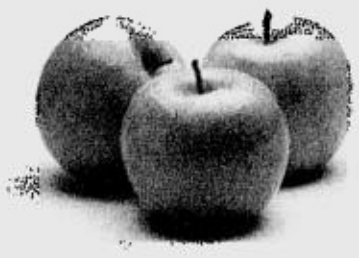

Pollution is inside the body, too

By Rowena C. Burgos

WHAT we eat is an indication of who we are, and how we eat is governed by ritual and tradition. Diet is too personal to be political and too habitual to be affected by facts and statistics. Most people need a change of heart before they will change what they eat.

But the food they eat can also be the source of their health problems.

In his book, "Fighting Body Pollution," Paul Kramer does not only advise a change in diet for good health but a total transformation of life.

Kramer is a registered nutritional consultant who has been studying the effects of nutrition, exercise and the environment on human health for more than 20 years now and has conducted health seminars around the globe.

He says, along with nutritional supplements, herbs and healthy eating habits, another way to ensure that you and your cells stay healthy as you age is to get lots of exercise. Regular exercise can help maintain your vitality, mobility and independence, and make you feel better physically and emotionally. It can also improve your mood and relieve depression.

Kramer defines body pollution as "stored chemicals that damage the healthy cells of the body leading to disease." He says, "The one thing that each of us shares, no matter where in the world we live, is an increasingly polluted environment that is negatively affecting our health." Pollution and toxins from air, food and water enter our body, become body

POLLUTION/ F2

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

TONI GONZAGA
Meet the beautiful face behind the angelic voice. Be there when Toni Gonzaga spends an afternoon at Robinsons to perform songs from her new album. It's one event you should be part of.

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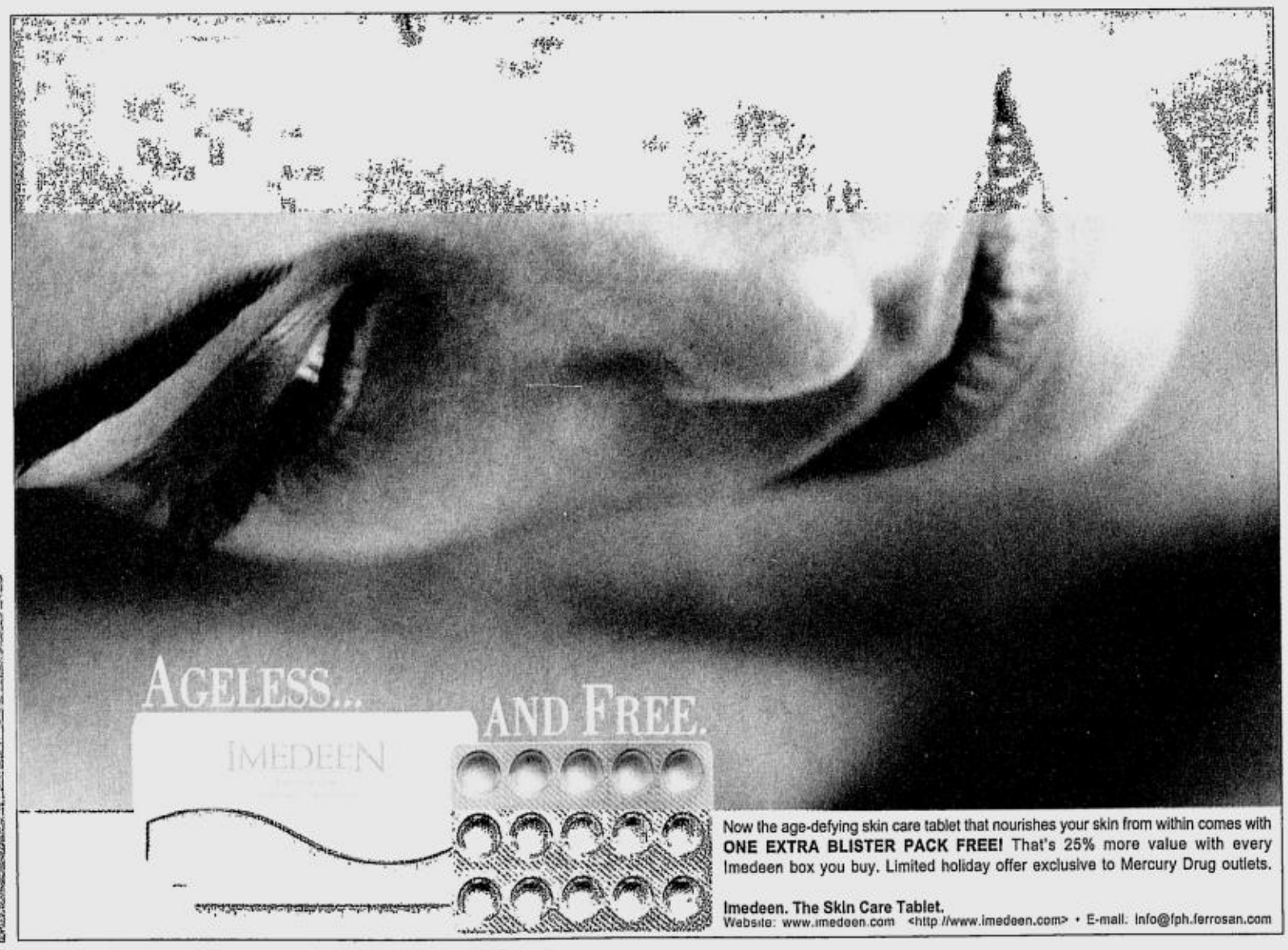

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Book caravan chugs along

IN CELEBRATION of National Book Week this month, the University of the Philippines Press Book Caravan will visit two schools—the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod and the Philippine Normal University in Manila.

The literary road show will bring Gemino H. Abad ("Poems and Parables"), Ramon "Mes" de Guzman ("Barriotic Punk") and Erwin Castillo ("The Firewalkers") to Bacolod. They will be joined at a literary reading by director Peque Gallaga, Modesto Saonoy and R. Torres Pandan.

The Caravan to Bacolod is co-sponsored by the University of St. La Salle through Dr. Elsie Martinez Coscolluela, vice president for academic affairs and a much-awarded writer herself.

The writers who will visit Philippine Normal University are Teo Antonio ("Tilad na Dalit"), Pete Lacaba ("Kung Baga sa Bigas"), Jose Dalisay, Jr. ("The Oldtimer and Other Stories") and Romulo Baquiran ("Onyx").

The UP Press, which was recently named Publisher of the Year by the Manila Critics Circle, launched the Book Caravan last year as part of its Read UP campaign.

The campaign seeks to address the lack of interest in reading among Filipino students. Part of the campaign is the Jubilee Student Edition, a prestigious series that publishes and reprints the best of contemporary Philippine literature in an attractive yet inexpensive edition to make the books more accessible to students, teachers and the general public.

The road show brings authors of the Jubilee Student Edition to campuses all over the country to encourage Filipino students to read more and to read Filipino books.

TEO Antonio

MES de Guzman

The book caravan to the University of St. La Salle Bacolod is co-sponsored by the Phinma Foundation and the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod, while the Naga caravan was made possible by the estate of Pedro Ribaya Sabido.

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Jessica Hagedorn, Jaime Laya to launch books

JESSICA Hagedorn, critically acclaimed author of "Dogeaters," will launch "Dream Jungle" tomorrow at 6 p.m. in National Book Store Shangri-La. The book is a sensual and razor-sharp indictment of colonialism, evoking both the beauty and corruption of the Philippines from the martial law era to the end of the 20th century. Hagedorn will be present to autograph copies of her books.

Meanwhile, collectors extraordinaire share their passions for treasure hunting in a jewel of a book titled "Consuming Passions."

The book is a collaboration of remarkable individuals drawn together by editor and former chair of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts Jaime Laya. Among them are Gilda Cordero Fernando, Linda Panlilio, Butch Dalisay, Alejandro Roces, Thelma Sioson San Juan, Manuel Quezon III, John Silva, Cora Alvina, Eric Caruncho, Floy Quintos, and others who revel in rare finds and exquisite personal treasures.

"Consuming Passions: Philippine Collectibles" will be launched at the Filipinas Heritage Library on Nov. 20, 6 p.m. Call Anvil Publishing at 7471622 or 6375692.

Pollution is inside the body, too

From page F1

pollution, he adds, putting people's health at risk.

Although some people may suffer from cardiovascular disease due to genetic and predetermined factors, other people's conditions are affected by environmental conditions. A recent study by the Harvard Medical School suggests that smog may increase the risk of heart attack by up to 50 percent. "Many people do not realize the indisputable link between the environment we live in and many of the diseases that are most prevalent today," says Dr. Paul Hacker in the book's foreword. Dr. Hacker is a cardiologist at Markham Stouffville Hospital in Ontario, Canada, and an instructor at the University of Toronto.

For many people, a meal without meat is simply not a meal. Yet the science of nutrition has been preaching the benefits of a plant-based diet for over 50 years. One needs only to note how the diet in poor countries saves their populations from many of the diseases that plague affluent people.

According to Dr. Hacker, many of the risk factors for cardiac disease, which include hypertension, high cholesterol levels, obesity and diabetes, are strongly linked to poor nutrition. "With busy lifestyles, many people's dietary intake is high in fat and void of nutrition, including essential minerals and vitamins as well as fiber."

Health guide

Kramer wrote "Fighting Body Pollution" as a guide for staying healthy in an unhealthy world. The book contains useful health, diet and nutrition facts that will increase your knowledge and positively influence your dietary habits.

Some of the health tips are: Taking Vitamin E with a small amount of fat increases its antioxidant protection dramatically. An easy way to avoid unhealthy fats: The more solid fats are at room temperature, the more they should be avoided. To increase absorption of vitamins and minerals, avoid coffee and other high-caffeine drinks for an hour and a half after taking supplements.

There are also fast facts such as: Air pollution is predicted to cause eight million deaths annually by the year 2020. One cup of blueberries delivers as much antioxidant power as five servings of other fruits and vegetables like peas, carrots, apples and squash. It's believed that toxic chemicals in the body can reduce immune capacity by 50 percent.

At the end of each chapter, readers will find "Take Action Today" guidelines for a healthy, active life. The final chapter titled "Now for a Brand New Life!" summarizes the "Take Action Today" guidelines step-by-step.

"We do need to realize that we must make some serious lifestyle changes in order to live a long, healthy and active life. Thankfully, there's evidence that taking a proactive approach will not only add years to your life but also make those years more enjoyable. Applying the principles in this book will show you how to do just that—without leaving the city you live in," Kramer says.

Paul Kramer will launch "Fighting Body Pollution" in Manila on Nov. 22 and in Cebu on Nov. 23 and talk about staying healthy in an unhealthy world.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

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HALLMARK Cards promotes the time-honored practice of mailing greeting cards to loved ones this holiday season with a special promo dubbed "Pamasko sa Card at Selyo Maghulog at Manalo Raffle Promo," in partnership with The Philippine Postal Corporation.

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See Posters for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit Number AI-622 series of 2003

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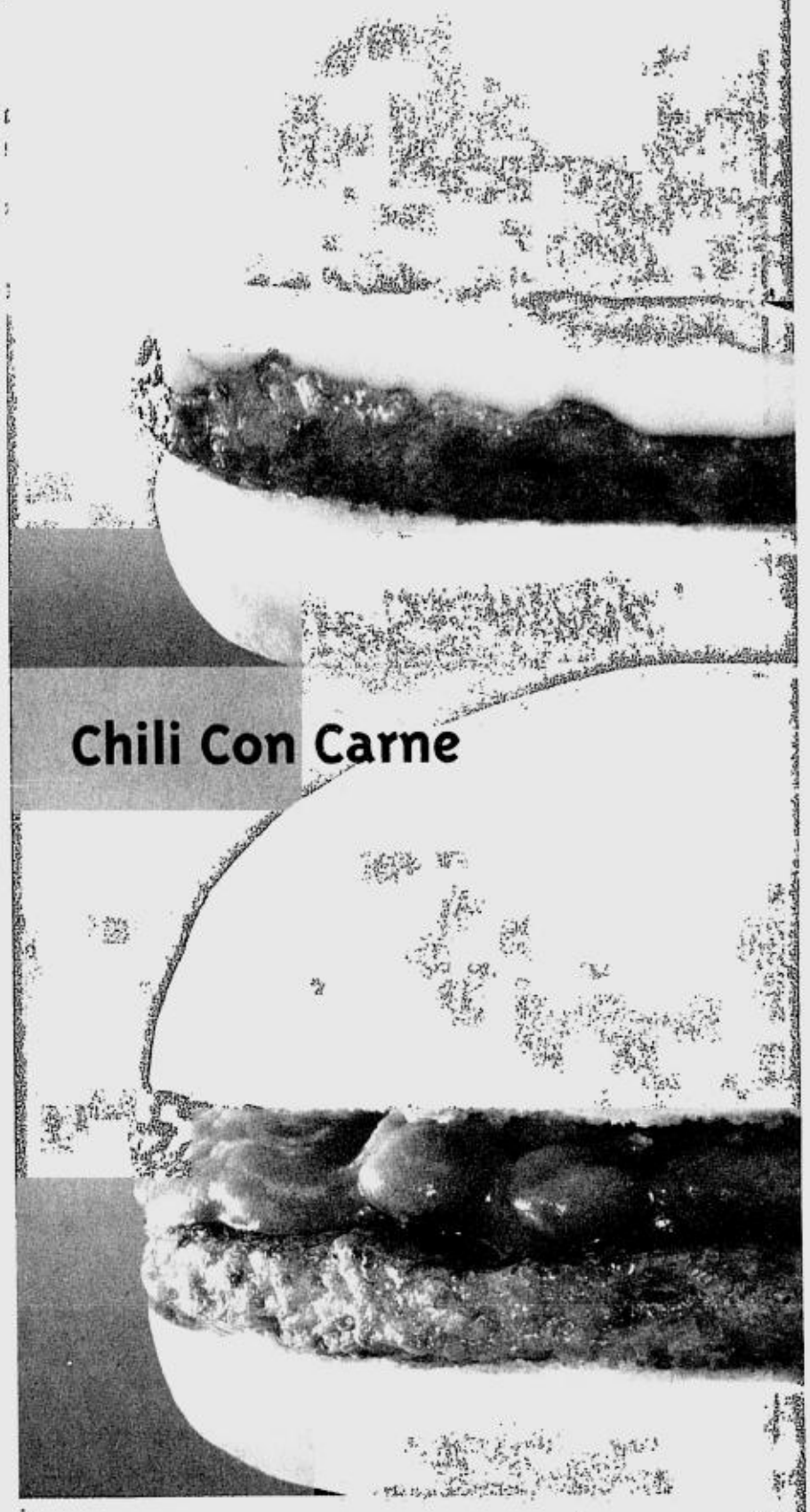

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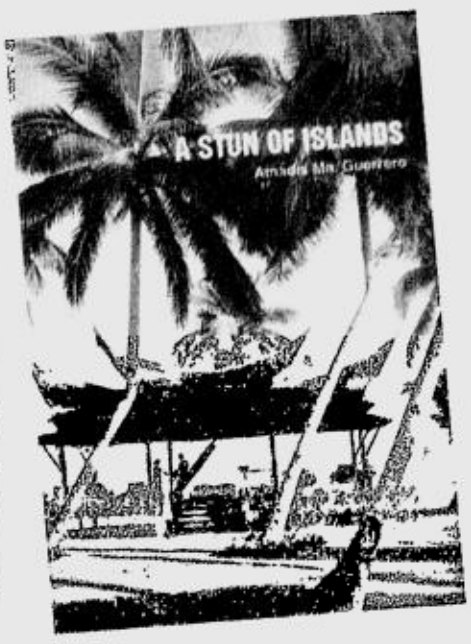
Two new books from Guerrero



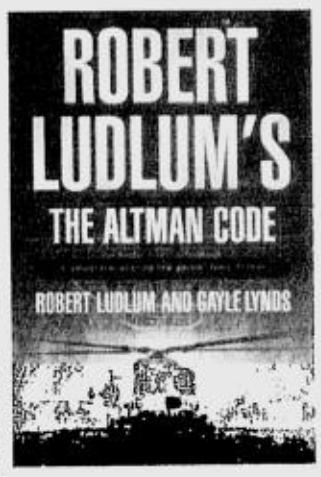
CULTURAL and travel writer Amadís Ma. Guerrero has just published two books: "Amadeo Manalad: History's Muralist" and "A Stun of Islands."

"Amadeo...", distributed by Kasaysayan Publishing (7325397), focuses on the life and works of the late, great muralist, a contemporary and peer of Botong Francisco and Vicente Manansala.

"A Stun... " takes the reader from Apayao and Palanan to Dinagat and Siargao Islands, and then on to the disputed Spratly region. Distributed by Milflores Publishing (7216431), it is available in Aeon, Popular Bookstore, Old Manila-Megamall, Solidaridad, Books for Less, Christian Ventures, UP Press Bookstore, Filipinas Heritage and TradeWinds.

Book design is by Francisco M. Verano and photos by Rex Toledo, Benjie Espartero, Tom Epperson and Laling Quiambao.

New must-read books



HERE are Powerbooks Specialty Store's book recommendations for November:

"The California Club" by Belinda Jones is about rebirth and rediscovery. When Lara Richards jets off to glamorous California, she finds her old friend Helen transformed from a clipboard-clasping frump into a shimmering surf goddess. Find out the secret to her blissful new life.

Can teenagers keep themselves sexually pure these days? In "The Price & Prize of Purity," Rhea Paredes answers with a resounding yes. Not just another book about sex and relationships, it's about waiting for the best life has to offer even while you are young. Also in the book are thoughts on parenting and growing up by Anthony and Maricel Pangilinan.

"The Last Don" is Mario Puzo at his finest. His greatest Mafia novel since "The Godfather," this is a masterful saga of the last great American crime family.

Bob Ong tickles hearts and refreshes memories in "Bakit Baliktad Magbasa Ng Libro Ang PILIPINO?" The sequel to his best-selling "ABNKKBSNPLaKo?" is a collection of funny thoughts about being a Filipino wherever you are.

Mia Devlin knows what it's like to love with your whole heart—and then watch your love walk away. In "Face The Fire," she and Sam Logan share an incredible bond built on passion, legend and fate, until one fateful day that would change Mia's life forever.

In "The Altman Code," author Robert Ludlum brings us his own brand of sophisticated plotting and suspenseful pace. He uncovers a terrifying international cabal whose reach extends into the darkest corners of power with a diabolical plan to thrust the world to the very brink of war.

Rekindle your sense of gratitude with "I'm too Blessed to be Depressed", by Joanna Campbell-Slan. These are stories that reflect life's complexity and joy, collected from women of all ages and all walks of life.

World-renowned Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon is summoned to a Swiss research facility to analyze a cryptic symbol seared into the chest of a murdered physicist. In "Angels & Demons", what he discovers is unimaginable: a deadly vendetta against the Catholic Church by a centuries-old underground organization—the Illuminati.

Ready to renovate? In "100 Bright Ideas For Bathrooms", there are great tips on how to transform your bathroom into whatever suits your personality, from fresh to modern and practical.

"Perfect Party Cakes Made Easy", by prize-winning cake decorator Carol Deacon, offers over 70 designs for professional-looking party cakes, from children's fun favorites to Christmas treats.

Call 844 4455 or email ibid@powerbooks.com.ph.

Speech organization elects new officers

Dr. Ramona Rañeses

THE SPEECH Communication Organization of the Philippines, a national professional association of educators, researchers, practitioners and institutions committed to promote education, scholarship and practice in the field of speech communication, has announced its new set of officers to serve for two years from 2003-2005.

The new officers are Dr. Ramona B. Rañeses, president; Prof. Sol V. Gabriel, executive vice-president; Dr. Leopoldo C. Gonzales, vice-president for Luzon; Dr. Zenaida S. Martinez, vice-president for Visayas; Dr. Lilian L. Peña, vice-president for Mindanao; Dr. Romeo D. Sajonas, Jr., secretary, Dr. Reynaldo J. Cruz, assistant secretary; Dr. Monica F. Quilantang, treasurer; Dr. Judith M. Bunyi, auditor; Dr. Claire S. Manalo, business manager; and Dr. Rustica C. Carpio, PRO.

SCOP's mid-year national training seminar/workshop will be held at Trinidad Hotel in Legaspi City on Nov. 19-21, with the theme "Speak Better, Communicate Better."

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ROMANTIC realist Romulo Galicano shows his art to Centex beneficiaries

LIFESTYLE

Galicano's art serves a plate of hope

By Berry Marfori
Contributor

ROMULO Galicano's mastery of figure drawing and composition as well as the poignant appeal of a Mother and Child find fusion in "Morning Sunlight," a painting donated by the renowned artist to the Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education (Centex).

A school for bright public-school children from marginalized families, Centex has reproduced the work in a high-quality ceramic plate. The "Morning Sunlight" plate is the third in a series of porcelain collectibles by the masters.

Proceeds from the plates have been earmarked solely for the school, which is training young achievers for leadership.

Galicano is widely recognized as the leading proponent of romantic realism. While his paintings evoke the spirit of the masters, he attempts to infuse a contemporary feel to each of his works. He is also acknowledged as the most renowned portrait painter of this era.

Upon the invitation of Centex volunteer and spokesperson Kit Zobel, Galicano donated "Morning Sunlight" to the school managed by the Ayala Foundation.

Aside from being the focus of the plate, the image is also be reproduced in notebooks and gift cards now to be sold in booths managed by Ayala Museum at the Glorietta 4 of the Ayala Center and at the Alabang Town Center.

Observes Kit Zobel: "We are so pleased that our Centex plates are sought after and that they have raised great awareness for our kids who have really begun to bloom."

Centex children have consistently been topping achievement tests administered by the Department of Education for their respective levels.

Centex has two campuses—in Tondo, Manila, and in Bauan, Batangas. It adopts a holistic approach to education. Aside from offering students an innovative curriculum that teaches them to be critical thinkers and lifelong learners, the school also provides students with supplemental feeding and a transportation allowance to ensure their full performance.

Centex's oldest batch of students is in the fifth grade and shows great promise as shown by the academic performance, self-confidence and high self esteem of the students. The latter is the focus of a special program which aims to help the children bridge the gap between the school environment and their impoverished backgrounds.

Galicano, who comes from the small Cebu town of Carcar, is a "perfect role model for the children," according to Centex project director Carol Atacador.

After high school, Galicano traveled to Manila with only P5 in his pocket to seek an

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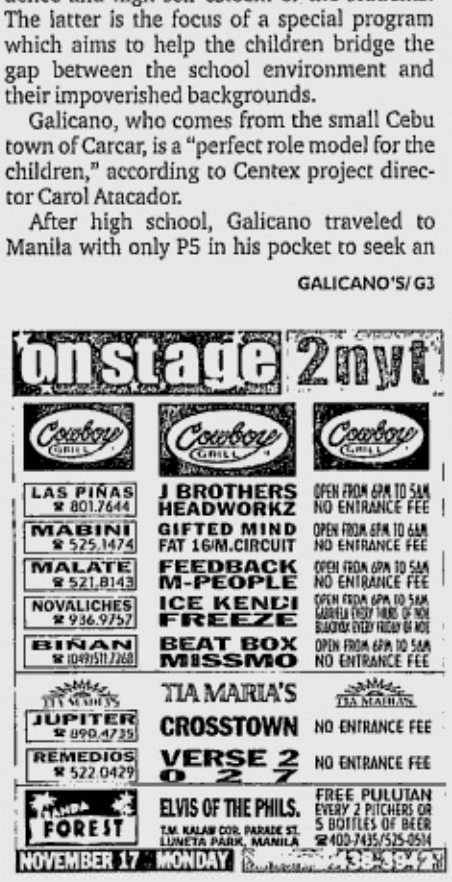

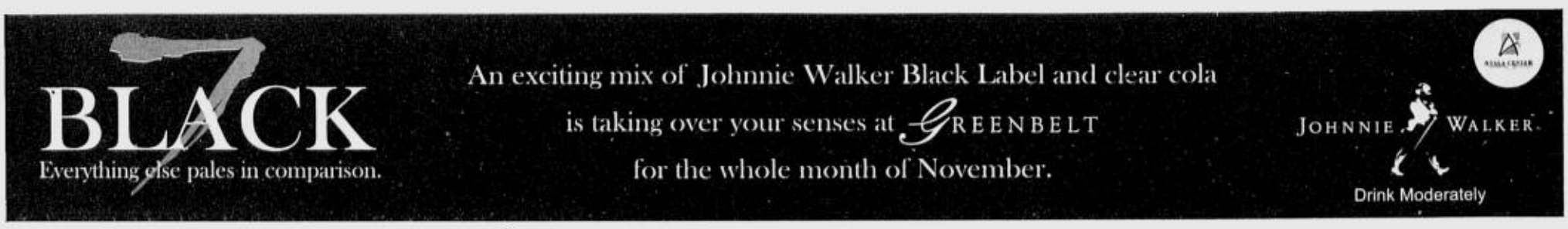

Davao City eager to join revolution

By Butch Hernandez
Contributor

COUNCILOR Mabel Acosta chairs the education committee of the Davao City Local School Board (LSB). Recently she came to Manila just to meet with FWWPP chair Eggie Apostol, to ask how to jumpstart the Education Revolution in her city.

Mabel says Davao City's private sector, community organizations and the academe all want to help uplift the quality of education in public schools.

"But resources are limited, we have to be organized so that all available resources are maximized," she explains.

Mabel adds that the local government, led by Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, has always considered education a priority. For instance, the LSB is always hiring teachers, even on a temporary basis, for understaffed public schools.

The people of Davao City want to do more through the Education Revolution because quality education benefits all of us, Mabel says.

EdRev goes to Laguna

When Melo Cabrera talks about corporate social responsibility, he is drawing from many years of experience.

Formerly with Ayala Foundation, Melo is now the director of the Investment Capital Corporation Foundation Inc. (ICCPFI), which oversees the social responsibility program of "locators" in LISP1 or Laguna Industrial and Science Park I.

LISP1 occupies 173 hectares in Barangay Diezmo, Cabuyao, Laguna. Some of the locators operating there are H.B. Fuller, Pepsi Cola, Concepcion Industries Inc., Procter & Gamble Phils., Philips Semiconductor Phils. Inc., Epson Precision Phils. Inc., Ionics Circuits Inc., Mitsui Hi-Tech Inc., EG&G Optoelectronics, First Sumiden Corporation, Automated Technology Inc., Miyasaka Polymer Phils. Inc., and Shinsei Industries Phils.

Melo said the locators relied on ICCPFI to design workable social-responsibility programs that they could implement jointly or individually.

LAGUNA Industrial and Science Park I senior manager Jose Nilo Soqueña and AVP for operations Caloy Bacila

DAVAO City councilor Mabel Acosta

He learned of the Education Revolution a few months ago through FWWPP Adopt-a-School program director Beth Cabuguas. Melo must have liked what he heard.

Recently he asked this writer to present the Education Revolution to LISP1's administrators, Lito Dominguez, AVP-science park; Caloy Bacila, AVP-operations; BJ Alora, AVP-industrial engineering; senior manager Jose Nilo Soqueña and managers Precy Balota and Candido Quimno Jr.

Melo and the LISP1's administrators immediately saw the Revolution would have a deeper impact on the park's host communities. He was particularly interested in promoting environmental consciousness among public school pupils.

The Education Revolution would have the added benefit of projecting locators as good corporate citizens, not to mention the tax incentives they would get under the Adopt-a-School Act of 1998.

Melo sees great possibilities for the revolution. He said their industrial parks in Sto. Tomas, Calamba and Cebu could follow the Education Revolution model at LISP1.

New EdRev front

FWWPP Adopt-a-School program director Beth Cabuguas reported that her recent trip to Negros Occidental opened a new front for the Education Revolution.

Beth said Sagay Human Development Foundation and Sagay Ladies Circle were working out details for adopting eight public schools in Sagay. The "revolutionaries" were coordinating with school principals, local government and parent-teacher-community associations of the various schools, to prepare for the adoption.

Pahiliusa Foundation Inc. is currently designing Peace Education Modules, essentially learning-assistance packages with enhanced value-formation components, that adoptive entities can incorporate in their programs.

Beth added the La Consolacion Academy (LCA) in Murcia, Bacolod, adopted two more public schools, bringing their total to seven. Around 2,700 public school pupils benefited from LCA's efforts.

Promoting the Education Revolution in Negros Occidental has been a very productive activity for Beth.

"Nobody says no to our call for quality education in public schools. They all want to help," she said.

The author is the executive director of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power.

SCIENCE Park AVP Lito Dominguez and manager Candido Quimno Jr.

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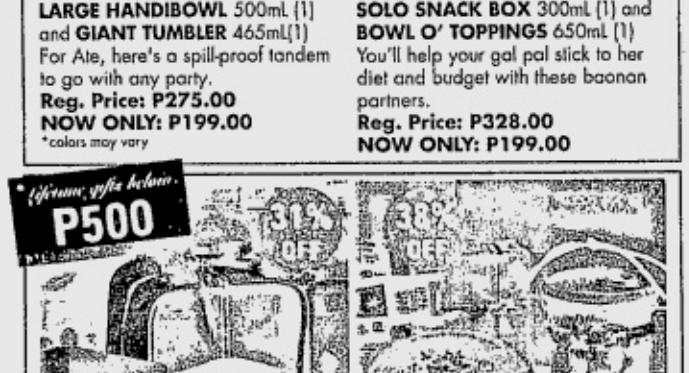

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Galicano's art serves a plate . . .

From page G1

education in the arts. He worked during the day as a painter of advertising billboards, and at night was a student in University of the East.

The hard work eventually paid off when Galicano launched his first one-man show and eventually won a major prize in the 1977 Art Association of the Philippines competition. Galicano's works has been featured in major art events in the Philippines and abroad.

Funds raised from the Galicano plate for Centex will be used to improve programs for the children.

"We believe these children have great potentials for leadership," says Atacador, "and a visit to any Centex classroom will prove our point."

Nevertheless, because Centex is pioneering in the work of raising leaders from among the marginalized through the intervention of a good education, needs crop up constantly and beg for solutions.

Centex is a collaboration among Ayala Foundation, the Department of Education and local government units. It is also supported by corporate funders Ayala Land, Inc. and Globe Telecom.

More Centex schools are expected to be put up in the next few years.

"MOTHER and Child"

Sungdu-an in Cagayan de Oro; Lebajo at Ricco-Renzo

VISUAL ARTS

GAISANO CITY Mall presents "Sungdu-an 3: Making the Local" until Dec. 7 at the 4/L Bridgeway, Gaisano City Mall, CM Recto Avenue, Cagayan de Oro City. The exhibit takes the theme "Lambigit" to highlight the interconnectedness of the diverse and seemingly irreconcilable cultures of Mindanao.

KULAY DIWA Art Galleries presents Christopher Zamora's "Everybody Wants to Feel Better" until Dec. 4 in White Gallery. The collection deals with subjects like love, lust, fame and power. Kulay Diwa is at 25 Lopez Ave., Lopez Village, Sucat, Parañaque.

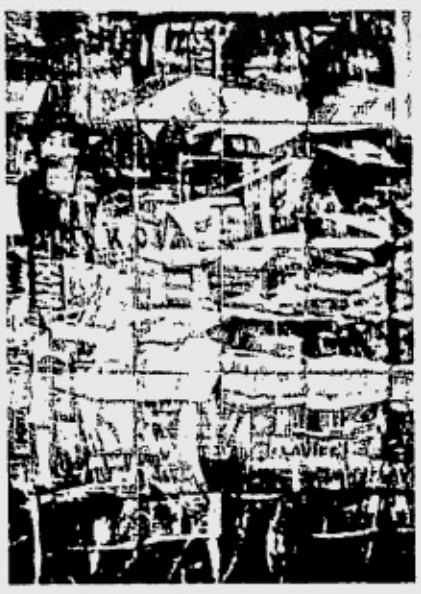
RICCO-RENZO Galleries showcases Raul Lebajo's "Liquid Dreams" on Nov. 18-Dec. 18 at the ground floor, LRI Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati.

BOSTON Gallery features José Santos III's "Perspectives" and Federico Sievert's "Alcove" until Dec. 5 at the Upper and Lower Galleries, 72 Boston St. cor. Lantana, Cubao, QC. "Perspectives" uses the pictorial device of open windows to demarcate spectators' distance. In "Alcove," Sievert evokes reverence to feminine sexuality.

KULAY DIWA Art Galleries mounts Ronaldo Ruiz's "Code Red" until Dec. 4 at 25 Lopez Ave., Lopez Village, Sucat, Parañaque. The exhibit features the concept of redness as both visually stimulating as well as a warning of the dangers that lurk ahead.

THE DRAWING Room showcases Diokno Pasilan's "Time Will Tell" until Nov. 26 at the ground floor, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati. The artist presents an exhibit on the textile *batikurit*, which means "drawing on wax using dyes and natural colors."

"QUESTION of Dying Traditions," by Al-Nezzar Ali



"REFLECTION 4," by Joel Geolamen

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US-based artist Mario Fernandez mines his roots in striking colors

"LIWANAG"

MARIO Fernandez

"BLIND Man's Bluff"

Welcoming the light

By James P. Ong
Contributor

NEW YORK-BASED artist Mario Fernandez left the Philippines with his parents in the early 1970s, just before martial law was declared.

He'd been away from Pangasinan, his home province, for a long time—until he decided five years ago to return and search for his roots. A trip to the Philippines has since become a yearly ritual for the 40-something painter.

"I like to explore the countryside. I am interested in the indigenous culture," he says.

So far, he has gone to Mindanao, learned how to weave *tinalak*, and sketched with little boys from Mountain Province.

It is this fascination with native folkways and the landscapes of the Philippines that has inspired Fernandez's oil paintings, on exhibit starting tomorrow in Finale Art Gallery at SM Megamall. The homecoming show, titled "Liwanag," is his first in the country (an exhibit of his watercolors is also ongoing in Ayala Museum at Glorietta).

Fernandez says it takes him at least a year to finish works in oil. His studio is in the East Village in New York, though he sketches just about everywhere.

He also goes on yearly pilgrimages to Amsterdam, where he's been exhibited as well. (He's also worked as an assistant to the Dutch abstract painter Karel Appel.)

"I feel at home with my work," he says. "I can go anywhere and work anywhere, because when I'm with my work, I feel at home."

This philosophy has a tangent effect on his work. In his paintings, images from the Philippines are set against a cosmopolitan, or sometimes even colonial Spanish-time, background. Fernandez is influenced by so many things in his life—from First World excesses to Third World depravities—but they're all gathered together for a joint appearance in his canvases.

One untitled work on exhibit at Finale shows seven figures trapped in an intriguing tableau. The images, always dark-skinned and raven-haired, are definitely Filipino, while their costumes hark back to the days of Spanish-style siesta.

Two boys play instruments, one girl cups her ears, another one rides a horse, a woman raises her arm, a cockfighter and an archer stare at the viewer.

All this takes place inside a well-appointed room with gleaming wooden floors—which, in fact, is the artist's New York studio.

In his works, Fernandez shows a skill in suggesting brightness, thereby creating an illusion of texture and transparency. But the exhibit title is more than just about an artist's gift at capturing different shades of light; it is also about mental and spiritual illumination.

While in the country, the artist is also interested in making porcelain sculptures.

Fernandez studied at the School of Visual Arts in New York.

He's also shown in several galleries in New York and in Turino, Italy. He founded and directed the New Math Gallery in New York's East Village.

"Liwanag" by Mario Fernandez runs on Nov. 18-30 at Finale Art Gallery (SM Megamall, 6342410) and will later move to Ayala Museum (Glorietta 2).

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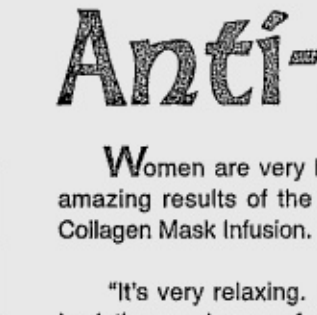
Women are very happy to discover the amazing results of the Facial Care Centre's Collagen Mask Infusion.

"It's very relaxing. First of all, it brought back the suppleness of my skin. I noticed that it became firmer and clearer. And it even lightened the slight discolorations that I used to have. *Parang...para kong bumata uli*," says Image Consultant & Jewelry Designer Chiqui Hollmann-Yulo.

Developed in Germany and exclusively available at the Facial Care Centre, the Collagen Mask Infusion is made of 100% pure and natural collagen product. It deeply moisturizes skin to prevent dryness, delay the onset of ageing signs, and improve the skin's hydric balance to restore its suppleness.

"I know all about collagen and how it is a natural substance of our skin," Chiqui further says. "I've been in the cosmetic industry for a long time so I know all about it. So when I went to Facial Care, I was very impressed that the therapists knew what they were talking about. Because I really wouldn't just let anyone touch my face. And after trying the Collagen Mask, I was very pleased."



Homemaker Therese Gutierrez couldn't agree more, "The effect was immediate. After the first treatment, I noticed

that my skin became smoother, toned, and moisturized. I think the Collagen Mask will help maintain my fresher and younger-look."

Joan Tiu, also a homemaker, adds, "It's really good. My skin became softer and more moisturized. I'm really satisfied with the results."

Chiqui says she loves "...the whole ritual of being cared for. The cleansing...the gentle scrub...moisturizer...then the finale -- the concentrated Collagen Mask. It feels so good!"

When asked if other people noticed the difference, Therese says, "People kept asking me, 'What's new? What did you do to your skin? You look fresher!'"

Chiqui, always cheerful and spirited, was even happier to relate, "The first time that I tried the treatment, I was so worried of how I would look afterwards because I had a whole schedule lined up that day. So I kept asking them if it's something after which I cannot go out and meet anyone because I'd look like my skin was scraped or burned or sómething...can I put makeup on? But you know what, when I saw my face afterwards, *sabi ko* -- lipstick *na lang*. My skin had this beautiful glow that I wouldn't want to cover with makeup.

"And when I went to my meeting right after, everyone was like, 'Chiqui! You look so...refreshed! Youthful! What did you do?' I told them -- Facial Care Centre! Collagen Mask!"

Joan agrees, "I don't even have to say anything. People see the difference and ask me about it!"

Chiqui satisfactorily concludes, "I'd put it like this: it's like waking up from a deep sleep. You look well-rested and refreshed. You just got to have it."

And you, too, can have it. Call us at the Facial Care Centre today at **815-2539** and trust our 21 years of skincare expertise to give you nourished, younger-looking skin.

ADVT